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THE
JOURNAL OF PENROSE.

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CALEDONIAN MERCURY PRESS,
EDINBURGH, 1815.

THE
JOURNAL
OF
LLEWELLIN PENROSE,
A
SEAMAN.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET,
AND WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH.

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CHAP. XI.

ABOUT this time I made a fresh calculation of my time, and found I had been on this shore six years and somewhat more than five months. I became every day more composed in my mind. I was anxious to subdue every desire, to damp every expectation, of returning to my native country, and to submit myself entirely to the will of that Providence that had hitherto so graciously preserved and supported me. Under these impressions, my

spirits were calm and unruffled. I was awake to all the enjoyments that offered in my contracted domestic circle. I was a husband, a father, and the patriarchal chief of my little family. My duties were my pleasures ; they were few ; they were easily defined : I had but to bless God, and be happy ; and I trust I was so.

A few days after this, Patty presented her husband with a daughter. I had now acquired considerable skill with the bow ; but could never make myself equal to Harry or Toby, who would strike a small humming bird at twenty yards distance with a blunted arrow ; but my proficiency was such as to encourage further exertion.

The world seems to be divided between credulity and scepticism. There are readers who are willing to believe every extraordinary thing related to them ; there are others who obstinately refuse to give credit to any, that have not been submitted to the evidence of their senses. There are, how-

ever, extremes on both sides. To steer between them is the effort of cool discriminating judgment. There are few travellers who have not seen things which they are unwilling to relate ; not from the slightest doubt in their own minds as to the reality of such objects, but being somewhat out of the common order, they are fearful of the imputation of extravagance in their narrations, and would rather suppress a circumstance well worthy to be known, than incur the character of wilful falsehood or weak credulity.

I have been led to these reflections by many extraordinary things which have come under my own observation, of the wonderful economy and management of nature in the animal and vegetable world. An instance or two I shall mention ; and I leave it to the reader's candour, after the above declaration, to believe or not, as he shall think proper. I will begin with the pudeling wythe, a kind of vine, which, af-

ter it has aspired to the top of the proudest tree in the forest, drops down perpendicularly, like a number of bell ropes, all of a thickness, till within about four feet of the earth; it then sprouts out like the tail of a horse, but on touching the ground takes root afresh, and ascends as before. The next instance I will give, is the shrub called the flying prickly pear, whose minute thorns are so very fine and subtile, that when the wind blows, and any person be to the leeward of them, they will insinuate themselves through his skin imperceptibly, at the distance of twenty or thirty yards. This I assert on the evidence of my own senses.

About this time we were annoyed by a most disagreeable smell. The wind was then north-easterly, and the stench at times became very offensive. I inquired if they had left any fish garbage, but could find none. At last it became so bad, that it was absolutely necessary to find out

the cause. I went, therefore, with Toby, in the large canoe, along the east shore; but when we got beyond our old dwelling, the smell became intolerable, and came in such sudden puffs, that I was scarcely able to support myself. At length I thought I saw something on a point of land, right off Tower's Field, (as I called it) resembling a ship's long boat, bottom upwards. The stench now became still more powerful, and came directly into our mouths. I began to suspect the true cause, and made a stretch out in order to weather it. When we got to the windward side, I found it to be a dead whale lying along on its side. As we drew near to it, we saw thousands of birds flying in all directions about it. The fish were as numerous below, and amongst them some of the largest sharks I ever beheld, measuring fifteen or sixteen feet. There were likewise snappers, barrow-cooters, cavallos, and many other

kinds in abundance. This whale, as I judged, was near sixty feet in length.

I asked Toby, if he had ever seen so large a fish before?

“Not up,” said he, “but much out in the big water—blow water—like wind, blow.”

I had never myself seen one before so near. The mouth was wide open, which gave me an opportunity of learning the nature of what is commonly called whale-bone. It lies round the roof of the mouth, supplying, as I judged, the place of gills; or as a kind of strainer to retain their prey.

Having thus satisfied my curiosity, at the expence of my sense of smelling, we returned, and made our report at home. We had this filthy smell for above a week longer, while the breeze stood our way, and it was above a month to be seen above water. When the smell was somewhat abated, I paid it another visit; but its appearance

was now quite changed,—all the ribs were parted, and most of the fish gone.

A considerable time after this, Harry and Toby went to Tower's Field for guanos and limes. As they were fond of sailing, they took a stretch out to the remains of the whale; and as they were satisfying their curiosity, they saw at some distance the wreck of a vessel to the northward. On this they made the best of their way home to inform me. I inquired if they had seen any people? They said no. As the distance was at least five leagues, it was necessary to make some arrangements at home previous to my visit to the wreck. Having done this, I left Harry with my family; and being well provided with necessities, proceeded with my second mate, Toby.

We paddled down the lagoon, and then stood directly out for a considerable stretch. Having passed our old dwelling, the next tack we fetched almost as far as Tower's

Field. We then proceeded till we came abreast of the Whale Point, from whence I could see over to the wreck. It was evening before we arrived at it. We found it was a brigantine, and by all appearance had been lost some time. Her bows were sunk in the sand; her main, fore, and fore-top-masts were yet standing; but the main-top-mast gone, and the bowsprit also. Part of her fore-sail was yet to the yard; the boom hung over the starboard-side, with part of her main-sail yet hanging in the water, over the starboard quarter. Her hatches were gone, and I could see much sand in her hold, through which I could discover chimes, as of barrels. Every thing was gone from the quarter-deck; even the doors of the companion. The cabouse lay sunk under the bow. The vessel appeared to be about seventy tons burthen; she had a black stern, and on it was painted, in white letters, Saint Pablo.

I asked Toby 'if he would go down into the cabin, as she was but little beneath the surface abaft? This he did, and brought out a jug of a long shape, and well stopped. He went down again and brought up an old hat, and the third time a small sheet. I then cut away the fore braces and one sheet, and put to shore for that night, exposed enough; but this we were accustomed to. The next morning we went off again. It was then quite calm. I cut away several pieces of her sail-cloth, and then left her. We were obliged to paddle away with all our might, and did not get home till the forenoon of the third day. We found all well, and much rejoiced at our return. I tasted the bottle we brought with us from the wreck, and found it contained some fine aqua dienta, which I laid by as a reserve against a time of sickness. This was the first liquor stronger than water I had tasted for above six years, and it was quite unpleasant to me.

Our young lime and orange trees came on finely ; and two of the cocoa nuts were burst out of the ground, to the size of flour barrels, and had shot forth most ample leaves. The guavas came up wherever we dropped the seeds.

I now dispatched Harry and Toby to the wreck, giving them a charge to make the best observations they could along the bay, for any thing that might have drifted on shore, and to bring home with them whatever they found of any use. They were absent three days, and returned the fourth about noon. They had a barrel in their boat, which, on first sight, I took to be pitch or tar ; some of the smaller rigging ; a wooden bowl ; part of the companion ; two small boards ; a bag of nails, with an oar.

The next day Harry went a fishing in the lagoon. He came back to tell me he had hooked a monstrous fish, and that it had carried away his hook. " It is a shark,"

said I. "No, no," he replied, "it was a large brown fish." I then judged it to be either a rock or jew fish; and away we went, with three conches for bait, with the shark-hook. When we got to the place he shewed us, I threw over the bait, and it was not long before the gentleman took it. Away he towed the canoe up the lagoon, until he was quite spent. Our shouting brought out Luta and Patty, so that they partook of a part of the sport. It was a rock fish, that weighed at least sixty pounds. We got a paddle into his mouth, and then reefed a rope through his gills, and made him fast to the mangroves. Harry recovered his hook also. Just as this sport was over, Toby told Harry to listen. We all stood in suspense for a few minutes, and then heard a conch shell sounding at a distance. Away ran Harry and Toby, and were on the cliff in a minute. There they began hallooing, "yo, yo, yo—more canoes coming!" I took my

glass and went up. I could distinctly count seven canoes, all under sail, and standing right in for the lagoon. I began to think they might be too many; but as I had ever found them kind and faithful, I plucked up my courage. I got into our canoe with Harry, and went out to meet them. We lay by for them; and as they came in I hailed, and they all began to sing. We then stood away a-head until they entered the lagoon. I then hailed them again. I was answered, "Amigos, Signor," from my good friend Komaloot. I could not help smiling to hear him salute me in Spanish. Luta and Patty waited their landing with their children; but when they came on shore, I could have wished half of them back again, being no less than twenty-five in number, males and females. We gave them a kind reception, and took them all up to our castle; where the greeting that took place among the women was quite diverting. They ad-

mired my little boy much, and praised his white colour. I found this to be a visit of mere curiosity to see how we went on.

Harry ran away to the brook to fetch some flat stones to mark down the names of our visitors. Upon this, my friend Komaloot ordered them all to be seated, and performed himself the office of master of the ceremonies. He first presented to me his own wife, Inna-sary.—Luta said it meant yellow flower. Then came Owagamy, and his wife Lama-atty; her cousin, called Quali-rema, or a tall vine; next a brother of Toby's whose name was Yovawan, or paddle-maker; Nocana-bara, or a commander; a girl called Ina-linca, or mellow fruit; Noona-waiak, or the dreamer; Razua-bano, or a great hunter; Kona-sove, or basket-maker; Futatee, who had been here before; Matta-linea, or red fruit; Soro-seet, or crab-catcher; Gatto-loon, or fore-caster; Latto-gamy, or the returner; Shoa-tate, or a bird-catcher; Wayahe-ga,

or comptroller ; Zula-wana, here before ; Gayna-santo, or a bewildered person ; a boy called Fari-beed, or a singing bird ; another called Muzzo-gayah, a fighter ; a third, Koura-coon, or a spy ; a girl called Vina-quota, or a favourite ; and one yet younger, aged about thirteen, called Iasa-wina, or honey-sucker.

I then ordered all the names to be laid up safe, and they looked upon it as a great honour paid them. They were all dressed and painted, in a very gay manner, agreeably to their taste. Owa-gamy had a string round his head, stuck full of maccaw feathers ; over his back hung the tail of a fox. At each ear a racoon's tail ; round his waist was wrapped the skin of some beast, and a large bunch of shark's teeth at his breast, with other things I knew no name for. Komaloot's garb was much after the same fashion, except that he had a piece of looking-glass hanging at his breast by a red string. These I pre-

sume were dresses of ceremony. The ladies had little ornament on their heads, except a fine tuft of cotton on each side; but round their necks hung many strings of shells, beads, and the like; also round their arms and legs, and each had a small wrapper of cotton stuff round the hips; the men a piece of baise; the young boys without any thing.

Komaloot ordered one of the Indians to go down to the canoes, and bring up some things, which they had brought for us. Among the rest was a valuable article indeed, no less than a pair of scissars, which was presented to Luta, a piece of looking glass, a few rattles of calabashes for the child. Owa-gamy gave me another maschut. They likewise presented us with half a dozen matts, such as they use for sails, and to sleep on; some very fine shells, arrow heads, made of a very hard green stone; a few fish darts; one small hatchet; some paddles, and a maccaw bird of most

beautiful plumage. For these presents I returned them my hearty thanks, telling them that I was sorry I had nothing to give them in return. Upon my saying this, Owa-gamy laughed, and said, what we give to our brothers and sisters we never ask for again like children. Lama-atty inquired the name of Patty's child. On being informed it had not a name, she desired it might have one given somewhat like hers. We therefore called her Matty.

I now began to take notice, that a young man, whose name was Soro-seet, or crab-catcher, kept constantly by Harry, and held long conversations with him. I asked if he was any way related to him. He said, up the side; and that this Indian remembered me very well, having seen me a long time before. This put me on the inquiry. Harry then made me understand, that he was the Indian's son I found on the Long Key, at my first landing there from the schooner. I bid Harry ask him

how they came to run away and leave me to starve for want? His answer was, that his mother's fears prevailed over every thing; I looked so fierce and savage in her eyes, that she could not bear the sight of me, and obliged his father to put off and leave me. To this I had no reply to make: her fears were natural; as a European, I might be justly dreaded by the more simple and unsophisticated Indian.

I now told my visitors, that the great one had sent us a fine fish to regale them with. Harry and Toby went to bring it up; and in the mean time I had the new yabbas or pots of our making brought forth. When it arrived, they all assisted in cooking it, by cutting it into junks for a stew, roasting plantains, yams, &c. &c. We put on pots for beans, peas, and the like; so that upon the whole we had a sumptuous entertainment, though our company consisted of more than thirty persons. Toby waited. Our table was the bare

ground. The ladies, by way of distinction, had the mats under them. When all were satisfied, Owa-gamy told Toby that he might return home again with them, for Padre Bastano was now dead, and he had never been inquired for at all. Toby hearing this, gave me a side look. I at once told him his abiding with us was only during his own pleasure—he was free to return whenever he thought proper. Upon this, Toby casting his eye on the young girl in the company, called Matta-linea, or red fruit, asked whether she had a husband or not. This put the whole company in a roar of laughter. The girl looked like a fool, got up, and leaving her seat, went to the fire side. Upon this Toby cried out, “she no man—no man—Toby man.” I asked him, if she chose to become his wife, whether it would be his wish to stay with us? Upon this he dropped upon his knees, and began a speech in his own tongue, as I supposed, that all the company should

fully understand him. I desired Luta to translate it, as they all seemed much pleased with what he said. She did it thus—"I protest before all these my people, you, Penoly, to be my good friend and brother. So long as the sun gets up and goes to sleep, and his sister, the moon, comes after to give light in the night; when blackness covers the trees and the wide sea; when I am dead in my sleep, sick, or lame; and while I am able to shoot with an arrow, hunt or catch fish, dig yams or potatoes, fetch fruits, &c. &c. let me remain with you. But if Penoly say go, then Samalummy go with his people."

During this harangue the women were all in tears. There was something extremely affecting in the tone and manner in which he expressed himself.

It was now my turn to speak. I desired Luta to inform them, that I was very much pleased with the manners of the young man, (upon this they all gave a loud

“hah !”) and it remained with him and Matta-linea to satisfy themselves and their friends.

They again interrogated Toby as to his inclinations, and he answered them as before—if the girl would stay with him as a wife it would make him happy ; he should then be always near me, learn my talk, and hear me speak about the strange things beyond the great water ; but if Matta-linea would not consent to live with him, he would then go back with them to seek for a wife. Komaloot said, if she were willing, they could not answer to give her away, as she had a good father and mother ; but that, on their return home, they would represent the matter to them, if the girl thought well of it.

Luta then spoke to her ; she said, she would go home first. I asked Toby if he would go with her ? he said, yes. So thus the subject was dropped for the present.

Among the things they gave us, was a piece of rough stone resembling our grindstone, which became of great use to us, for sharpening our tools. As we had now so many men with us, I proposed making a shed by way of kitchen. This was approved of, and all hands assisted in cutting down timber, and shaping uprights for the purpose, desiring I would give them the proper directions. I then began to lay out the ground, and judged that about forty feet by thirty would be sufficient for our purposes. When this was done, I appointed Harry, Toby, and four of their people, to the fishing department; the women were to stand cooks; the rest were employed with me in raising our new apartment; and in about five days we got it completely thatched in with palmetto leaves. In the mean time my turtles went to pot freely, and we lived tolerably well upon the whole. We made a door at each

end, and two openings in the top for the smoke to pass out.

Every thing being completed, they began to think of returning, having been with us twelve days. Toby went with them. We accompanied them as far as the Long Key. When we were about to part, Luta said, she wished one of the girls to stay and live with her, but was ashamed to ask the men. I told her she should have mentioned it to me before ; and perhaps the girl had no inclination to stay. Very much, she said, for she had no father or mother. Upon this, I hailed Owagamy off the point, and begged him to state the circumstance to his countrymen, as my particular desire ; which he did, and finding the girl willing, she was put into our boat. So Miss Iasa-wina, or the honey-sucker, returned back with us, after wishing her friends and countrymen a good voyage ; and I soon found the girl was as

glad to stay with Luta as she was to have her. We gave her the name of Jessy.

We had not seen above half a dozen monkeys in all the time of my living here; but after we had Indian corn we were pestered with them, particularly while it was in its green and tender state. It was some time before we found them out. The discovery was made as we were gathering squashes at the old ground. We saw twenty or thirty of them make off and mount the trees. How to remedy this evil was the question. As soon as I got home I went to work, and contrived a sort of wind clapper, which I fixed on the top of a pole. This had the desired effect, and not one monkey was to be seen for some time after.

Mischievous as these animals were, they were at the same time so diverting, that I have been extremely entertained with their droll humours. I have seen young ones sit on the limbs of trees, with ears of

corn in their fore paws, which they would husk as dexterously as we could do it. At other times an old monkey seated on a branch with two young ones, would with great gravity give a corn to each as they sat by her side. Others would hand it over their shoulders to the young ones on their backs, being in all their motions like the human race. Then they would grin and chatter, and perform a thousand antics, which never failed to divert us by their drollery.

We had no account from our friends the Indians for a long time, so that I began to think Toby had deserted us entirely, or that something extraordinary had happened to prevent his return. One day as Harry and I were on the look out, we heard a noise, as of people talking at a distance in the woods. Harry asked me if he should halloo out to them? I said, "by no means; if they are coming to us they know the road, therefore do you follow me

down." In a short time after, Toby and two other Indians arrived, one of them his brother, called Yova-wan, or the paddle-maker, and Noona-waiak, or the dreamer, who had both been here before. They brought two guanos with them, and a sort of bird unknown to me. They asked for Luta and Patty, who soon came and welcomed them. We then prepared a good meal. I observed to Toby that I thought some accident had happened to him, or that he was determined never to return to us again. He shook his head, and then laying his hands on his knees, said, "Toby here now—know all trees here grow—want to see them one more time."

"But where is the wife?" said I.

"Oh, she see one to-morrow time."

As I observed him appear somewhat melancholy at this, I did not continue the conversation, and left him, taking it for granted that Luta would soon find out the cause of her not coming with him; and in-

deed I was pretty right in my conjecture ; for she afterwards told me, Toby had informed her, that when they got back the old people called a council, and were well disposed for it, but that her father would not give his consent that she should leave her home ; and finding the young people had a mind to each other, to prevent further inconveniency, they resolved to marry her to another, which they actually did. This affected him very much ; and he was for a long time quite out of spirits, till at length some of his neighbours came to visit him, and brought with them a fine girl called Rava, with whom he grew desperately enamoured. He made his proposals, and was accepted by her friends, that she should be his wife if we would permit her now and then to visit them ; which Owa-gamy had given his word we would consent to. On this they promised to bring her to this place in canoes, observing, that his brother and Noona-waiak

were to stay with us till she arrived. I asked when we might expect them? He said, one moon and half moon, when cotton was done.

Harry now proposed to go again to the wreck. I told him she must be all to pieces before this time. However he was bent upon the excursion; and in two or three days after, Toby and his new messmate Noona-waiak went, leaving Yovawan with us. They were absent four days, and the women began to be uneasy; and to say the truth, I was not a little alarmed myself; but on the fifth day I saw them coming round the point, to my great joy. They told me, as an excuse for their long absence, that when they came to the place they could not find her; that the two trees were gone, but the long tree which hung over the side was driven on shore in the bay. They added, they had found ten barrels on the sand, and had buried them. This pleased me much.

I We now began to pay the bottoms of both canoes, and remained in expectation of seeing or hearing from our neighbours. The young men kept a sharp look out every morning. I caused five of our turtles to be turned adrift, as they were become very lean, and were continually wasting for want of proper food, reserving two only against the return of our friends. Thus we went on from day to day. Our table was amply supplied with variety of fish ; and no new occurrence happened, till I found my seventh year wanted but a few days of expiring.

CHAP. XII.

EIGHTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

HAVING now been on this shore full seven years, I told Luta we would hold a feast; and ordered a turtle to be killed for the purpose. When it was brought home, I ordered them to get every thing ready, as plantains, yams, pepper, salt, &c. for that our feast would be the next day; and in the mean time to go out and fish, as I expected we should have company enough to help us off with every thing that was provided. I said this quite in joke, not having the least expectation of its being veri-

fied. But sure enough, as they were fishing the next day, they discovered canoes coming at a distance. They soon brought us the glad tidings, and Toby became quite another creature, having been for some time rather melancholy.

I now took my glass and went up the hill, and soon discovered three canoes coming in. I directly ordered our sailing boat out, and to get the mast and sail ready—then dressed myself in my best attire, that is, my sombrero on my head, with two fine maccaw feathers stuck in it; my jacket made of tiger's skin, with the hair outward; round my waist a belt of bass rope, in which hung my hatchet; at my back my bow and arrows, with a maschut in my hand. In this garb I seated myself abaft. Harry and Noona-waiak were my two mates. When they came near, I bid Harry sing; directly they began to answer. I now found them to be six men and three ladies, viz.—Owa-gamy, Futatee, Nocana-

bara, Komaloot, Razua-bano, and Gayno-santo; Owa-gama's wife Lama-atty, the girl called Vina-quota, and Rava the bride.

The ladies were dressed and painted wonderfully fine, especially the bride. We escorted them all up the lagoon; and they were very much pleased to see our ladies waiting on the shore to receive them. When landed, we took them up to the castle. Toby seemed to be mightily rejoiced. He took Rava by the hand, and said some soft things to her; during which I had a full view of her person, and must confess she was the finest Indian girl I had ever seen. After they had conversed about an hour with our women, I asked Komaloot if all parties were fully agreed? He said they were. I then told them, by Harry, to make a circle round me; which they did. I called Toby and bid him take the girl by the hand—then inquired her name, and was told it was Rava.ocuma, or

Ravacuma. On this I joined their hands, and bid Luta tell them they were now man and wife, and made so in the presence of the Great Spirit who sees and knows all things; from this time their interests are the same, and they must be loving and dutiful to each other. When I had said this, they all began shouting and clapping their hands.

We now went all hands to feasting, and spent the remainder of the day in joy and mirth. The young couple were put to bed in the kitchen; and the next morning began to build a wigwam for themselves opposite to our dwelling. Our visitors staid with us a week, and then took leave in a very friendly manner, and returned home.

My family now stood thus:—Myself, Luta, and my son Owen; Harry and his wife Patty, with their daughter Matty; Toby and his new wife; and the Indian girl Jessy, being nine in number. We lived together in perfect love and amity;

when about six weeks after fortune began to frown upon us. Luta was now near her time, and was soon delivered of another son ; but she survived only a few days. My situation was now rendered truly deplorable. I was extremely fond of her. She was the most affectionate creature in the world. I thought my heart would break. Patty, who had not lost her milk, was obliged to become nurse to my infant. I gave it the name of Morgan. Poor Luta and I had lived together upwards of four years, in the most perfect conjugal harmony. A more loving, affectionate, and trusty wife and friend did not exist. My heart mourned for her.

As soon as I could muster up sufficient spirits, I was under the hard necessity of preparing the funeral myself. The two lads attended me, with heavy hearts too. Patty was almost distracted. She would not leave the corpse one moment. I desired them to dig a grave among the

orange trees, and I attended myself to see it completed. They dug about five feet, then came to hard rock, and were obliged to desist.

The scene was truly affecting. I sat at the head of the corpse, in a kind of mournful stupid mood. Poor little Owen would every now and then ask me when his mam would get up. Patty stood on one side, with her child in her arms, silently weeping over the body. Ocuma and Jessy were like two creatures bereft of their senses, especially the latter, who did nothing but look at me and howl, for she loved her mistress greatly, who had a great affection for her.

Before my poor wife died, she desired me to sit down by her. I took her by the hand, which she pressed close to her bosom, and said she was then going to the old people of long times, and that it was her great desire, when she was fast asleep, that I would return back to my own country with her two children, if the Great One

would let me go ; and if I did, to say to my country women not to be angry with her for keeping me there, as she was sure, had I been so much beloved by one of them, she would never have heard of me at all ; for that, in that case, I should never have come so far for a poor Indian wife—yet she did not like to part ; but it must be, the Great Spirit would have it so. I told her I would perform all her desires, if God would permit me. Overcome by my feelings, I was obliged to leave her for a short time, lest the violence of my grief should distress her. In about half an hour after, she expired, leaving her hand in the same posture as when I left her.

After she had been dead about thirty hours, I was obliged to give orders for her funeral. Patty and Ocuma bound up the corpse as decently as they could by my directions. I told Harry to go to the head and Toby to the feet ; they then lifted up the corpse. I took my poor boy in my

hand ; and the three females came behind with the children in their arms. The body was laid into the grave. I lifted up my hands, and prayed to God to receive her innocent spirit, and to prepare mine to follow it with equal purity, relying on the mercies of my God and Saviour to forgive what was amiss.

I now made signs that they should cover the body with earth, which was done. But my poor heart was almost rent to hear the outcry of my poor little Owen, when he saw them covering his mother with the mold. I therefore desired them to take the children back, which they did without speaking a word. But presently the pent up passion made its way, and the lamentation became general. I returned to the grave, and threw myself upon the earth, with my face to the sod, and gave full scope to my grief. I continued near an hour in this attitude, and then called my

family before me, and addressed them thus :

“ You very well know, my good friends,
“ how dear my poor Luta was to me, and
“ the great regard she had for you all.
“ You must be sensible how much your
“ friend Penoly feels the loss of so good
“ a woman ; but you likewise know that
“ death is common to all. The Great One
“ has now taken away from me what I
“ most loved. He has thought proper to
“ try, and perhaps to purify me by this
“ great affliction. It is my duty to sub-
“ mit ; it is your duty to give me every
“ consolation and assistance which my for-
“ lorn and helpless situation may require.
“ It is now, that I am in trouble, that I
“ shall try the sincerity of your attach-
“ ment to me. Assist me with your en-
“ deavours to conquer my sorrow ; shew
“ your affection to me by loving my chil-
“ dren. They have, alas ! no mother
“ now. You will always find me your

“ zealous and faithful friend ; and I only
“ expect from you a continuance of that
“ attachment and regard which you have
“ always shewn me on every occasion.”

They had hitherto continued silent, but now one and all declared they would live and die with me, and at any time risk their lives to preserve mine. Before my poor wife's death, I had resolved, by her desire, to clip my beard with the scissars, but I determined now to let it grow.

Harry and Patty would frequently go and seat themselves at the grave for an hour or two, conversing together. After this sad event, I became very indifferent about every thing, except the care of my children ; and I must confess that Patty and Jessy used their best endeavours to discharge their duties to them too. Ocuma was as yet incapable of speaking English, and could only silently bemoan with me and the children.

CHAP. XIII.

ABOUT a month after this had happened, Patty lost her daughter Matty. The child had been some time troubled with fits. We buried her by the side of my poor Luta. Our habitation became now quite melancholy; so that I went out oftener than usual with one or other of the lads. It was on one of these excursions that we found a large lump of ambergrise, as I judged it to be by the strong smell. I had never seen any of it in my life, but had heard its properties described. It weighed about one hundred and fifty pounds. We laid it by on a shelf of the rocks, placing aloe

leaves about it. It was of a dark grey colour, but of not the least use to me; though if transported to Europe would have been of great value.

One day, as I entered my dwelling on my return from fishing, I found Harry and the girls very earnest over the flat stones I had inscribed with the names of the friends who had visited us. I placed them in a row above the child's reach, in order to preserve them, and had added one for poor Luta. On inquiring what they were about, Harry said, they were learning them to talk. "How?" said I. "Oh," he replied, "we know who they all are very well." This I doubted; but on making trial, was astonished to find they could call them all distinctly by their names. This shews a great strength of memory, as it was by some particular mark, colour, shape, or magnitude of the stone, or by the order in which they were arranged, that enabled them to do this. Indeed I

began to suspect that the latter was the sole method by which they learned to repeat each particular name, and that it was done by the regular succession in which the stones were placed. I was resolved to prove this ; and sending them out on some pretence, I removed the stones from their places, and on their return tried them again. The result was the same as at first ; the moment the stone was given to them, they would slightly examine it, and declare the name. They had therefore some more arbitrary and positive sign to assist their memory.

We had now a few days of very dirty weather, with the wind from the south-west, and great thunder, lightning, and rain. After this weather had subsided, it happened that Harry went to the top of the hill to make discoveries. I saw him running down towards me, open mouthed, and crying out that there was a great ship coming to us. This put us all in a flutter and con-

fusion. I ran up, and saw, sure enough, a large ship heeling on her larboard-side on the key-reef, with her head to the shore. She had colours out as a signal of distress. By the help of my glass I thought they were Dutch, but was not quite certain, as she was at least six miles distant from us in a direct line.

I began to deliberate how I was to act on this occasion. I was by no means certain that it was a Dutchman; but I recollected, of whatever nation they were their present distress should command all my good offices. In the mean time the wind shifted, and began to fall. I ordered them immediately to get ready the boat, with fire tackling, &c. I took a shirt out of my store, scanty as it was, and jumped on board with Toby. When we got to the point of our lagoon, we made up a good fire, and I fixed up my shirt as a signal. We soon perceived a boat put off directly for us. We then got into our boat, and hav-

ing thus made ourselves known, were resolved to leave the result to Providence. We returned back as speedily as possible. When I arrived at our dwelling, I dressed myself as I had done when the Indians came last, and took my little Owen with me into the boat. Harry seeing this, said they would come too. To which I consented, desiring him to arm himself first; which was soon done, and he came down to the point, bringing the women and children also. This vexed me, as I saw plainly he did not know what he was doing; but since it was so, I held my peace. I had quite sufficient to occupy my thoughts. We now all shewed ourselves at the fire. They shewed a white flag abaft, then a Dutch jack, and the white flag again. I was strongly agitated by hope, fear, and desire.

As they came near, I told Harry and Toby to follow me, and exactly to do as I did. We left the women and children by

the fire, and, with my two messmates close behind me, I marched to meet them. When they came abreast of us, a man stood up in the boat, and hailed us. I clapped up my hands to my mouth, and answered 'halloo!' On this they pulled in for the shore, and there they lay on their oars to view us. I could plainly see the boat was Dutch built, and that there were nine men in her. Seeing them in suspense, I called, "From whence came ye?" They answered, but I could not understand them; and then came in to shore. A man jumped on the beach, and saying something to them, they put off from the shore again. He then called out to me, pulling off his cap at the same time. I returned the compliment, but could not understand him. After this I went up to him and held out my hand, saying, an Englishman. Upon this he shook me heartily by the hand, and called out to his companions that they might come on shore, as I judg-

ed ; for they all did, and gathered round me, looking at me with astonishment, then took me heartily by the hand. My lads seeing this, did the like ; but still we were sadly puzzled, as not one of them could speak English. I gave them to understand, in the best manner I could, that I had been cast away like themselves, and had been on this shore above seven years. I found they could not understand this term of seven years, by their endeavouring to repeat it. They surveyed me from top to toe, lifting up their hands, and saying, " Ah ! boor mon." Now I found they were sadly disappointed that they could not understand me ; but a lad said, " God-art Somer Engele spraken en der schip." This brought them to good humour again ; and I invited them to walk with me to our fire. This they complied with, so far as to accompany us along shore in their boat, and when opposite three of them landed again. No sooner did my people see them,

than they ran off; but I called them back, and they came trembling with fear. One of the men asked me if they were my vrowen, as I thought. Then they said they would go to the ship and bring God-art Somer; but I made signs for them to go home with me, which they declined, but seemed to consent that one should stay, with which we were satisfied—we shook hands again, and they put off for the ship. When they were gone, I asked the man who remained with us, what his name was? He said Jan Brill. I ordered Toby to go out with the small canoe to catch some fish; and in the mean time walked the beach to and fro with Jan Brill. He sometimes talked to me, but I could very imperfectly understand him; and this made him quite melancholy. We remained thus till Toby returned. Harry and Toby were now very anxious to give him a good meal; but he did not seem very desirous of eating. Harry would now and then take

him by the hand, and say he was like me, meaning that he had been cast away.

Some time after, we saw the boat go along side, and about dusk they returned, and brought with them Godart Somer. As soon as they landed they brought him up to me. I was immediately struck with the appearance of this young man; his countenance was familiar to me; I was confident I had seen him before, but where I could not at once recollect.

I asked him from whence they came? He said, "From the Texel;" that their ship's name was Dertroost, bound to Buenos Ayres.

I desired him to inform me, if he had ever sailed out of England?

"Yes," he said, "three voyages."

"Did you ever sail on board the Harrington of London?"

He paused some time, then said, "No, neet, Ober Ich was on board dat schip. I been gone on shore en der Graysend."

I directly knew him to be the person I took him for ; he was one of the supernumeraries put on shore at that place. They were all very much pleased with my recollecting him, and grew impatient for him to ask me questions.

“ Did I know the coast well ? ”

I told him, I was so far from knowing any thing of the coast, that I knew not where I was myself.

“ Their skipper wished me to come on board, would I consent ? ”

I said, if they wished to be informed about the shoals any where near my habitation, I was at the captain's service ; but as to my going on board, it could be of no use, and I would rather be excused, as I expected another squall from the same quarter ; it was my opinion the ship would never be got from that place, for that she was deep in the sand, and perhaps was bilged now. They were of quite a different opinion, and begged I would

come off as early in the morning as I could, to point out to them some channel, if they could by any means haul her off. It now came on to rain again, and we soon lost sight of her; the wind shortly after chopped about to the southward, and freshened up so, that I did not choose to remain where we were, with our little family. I then told them that I must return home, and if they chose to accompany me, I would make them as welcome as possible; that I did not think they would get on board that night, without danger of filling, by the great sea, which would soon set in, if the wind should increase. They chose, however, to make the trial, and we parted.

At this time the wind began to be more violent, but when we got round the point we were as safe as in a mill pond. They continued labouring at their oars for some time, while we were within the point; and I was greatly troubled in mind, for

if it should come on to blow hard their situation would be perilous indeed. The gale increased more and more, and at length I saw them pull round for the shore again. I directly landed Harry, and told him to run along shore and wait for them, then get into their boat, and pilot them in. This was soon done, and away they came after us. We soon all landed as wet as drowned rats. I shewed them into the kitchen, and got a large fire made up to dry their clothes. They seemed very much cast down, expecting a dreadful account of things the next morning.

I took Jan Brill and Somer up to my lodging, as thinking they might wish to have some conversation with me, for we had but little inclination for sleep during the whole night, but sat and talked without intermission. Poor Jan Brill wept very much, and was quite out of spirits. We got up early, and went to look out; visited the kitchen, and found them all

fast asleep and snoring, as if no misfortune had befallen them. I then called Ocuma, and bade her bring in some torches; after Toby had fixed them, he began to kindle the fire. The wind was now abated, and towards the morning it fell stark calm.

I then proposed to Somer that he should awake the people, and go in search of the rest, as I told him I was certain they never staid by the vessel, for the sea would make a fair breach over her on that reef. This we agreed to, but when we came to rouse them, they seemed quite ignorant of their situation, and acted and talked like men beside themselves, running against the thatch, and asking ridiculous questions, as Somer informed me; but a little recollection soon brought them to their senses again.

I ordered Harry to get our canoe ready to go with me. This was about four in the morning, and away we all went, leav-

ing Toby with the women. When we got some distance out, we saw the ship had swung round and lay on her beam ends; no boat appeared to be near her. Jan Brill then wrung his hands like a man in despair. Somer wished me to go on board with him, and to come into their boat; this I did, and we put the canoe to a killick. We then rowed away for the vessel; presently Somer called out in Dutch that he saw their long boat. I soon discovered her myself, and people walking on a point above the old cave; on this we got head round and pulled away for them. When we came in with the beach, I saw five men, who all ran and showed much gladness to see their shipmates again. Jan Brill then asked for the skipper; they said he was resolved to stay by the ship, with five more, and whether they had survived this dreadful night or not they could not tell.

There was now no time to be lost, so off they put for the ship, but soon returned, saying there was not one soul alive or dead on board ; they had searched every where. I asked Somer which was the mate, and he pointed him out to me. I went and shook hands with him, and desired Somer to inform him, that I wished them all to return back with me to my dwelling, and there we would hold a council on what was first to be done, as the ship was lost beyond the possibility of recovery. While I was speaking, I observed one man who went up the beach and seated himself on the grass, to lament his wretched fate, as I judged ; but to my great surprise, I saw him very deliberately take out of his pocket a pipe and pouch of tobacco, fill his pipe, and drawing out a small tinder box, he struck fire, lighted it, then with much composure, clasped his two arms round his shins, and

began puffing away, as if no earthly thing gave him the least discontent.

They soon came to a conclusion, and we all put off for the old cave, landed, and got a parcel of roots, and the only turtle we had in store; then put Harry on board his canoe, and returned to our place, with fourteen of the crew, being all that were left alive. I had now enough upon my head, to provide for so great an addition to my family, and for an unlimited time. I had likewise to consider, that, from their superior force, if they chose to take full possession of my habitation, and exclude me from it, they had the power so to do. I asked Somer what was the mate's name? he told me it was Jacob Van Tulden; upon this I welcomed him to my castle, as an asylum from present misfortunes, and hoped that he would use his authority to protect our females from any insult from the crew. This Somer told him in Dutch privately; he at once shook

me by the hand, promising to do every thing in his power to preserve peace and good order. As these people spoke a language unknown to us, our females from alarm kept themselves quite aloof. Mr van Tulden observing the colour of my children, asked me which of the females was my wife. I bade Somer tell him that I had lost my wife, and the two girls they had seen were the wives of my two friends who lived with me. We now prepared the best entertainment in our power, and sat down altogether, except the women and children.

Godart Somer was the general interpreter. I convinced him how necessary it was that arrangements should be made to secure provisions for so great a number, and that each should take his share in the labour for that purpose ; for which reason, I must beg they would submit to my directions, or we should soon find ourselves in a starving condition. Van Tulden and

Brill, who I found was the boatswain, said this was but reasonable; they represented it to the people, and all promised compliance. We now began to appoint our different stations. The mate, Somer, and myself, with five others, were to go in the long boat to the vessel; others were sent to cut wood; Jan Brill and Toby were to stay behind and guard the women and children, while Harry and another party were to provide us a dish of fish.

When things were thus adjusted, we prepared to go off to the ship; the weather was as calm as a clock, so that in two hours we got along side of her with ease. The first thing that struck my eye, was a yellow or tortoise shell cat running along the windward side, mewing in a sad manner. The ship we found bilged, and all the lower tier under water, above a foot or two. The mate sent some of them down into the steerage, where they remained for some time. I desired Somer

to inform the mate, that I was very certain there were no inhabitants except Indians for many leagues along this coast. My advice was, to secure as much as possible from the wreck, for their own use, before the natives came to the knowledge of it, as they would immediately come down and plunder it of every thing. He seemed alarmed at this. We then went down into the cabin, where we found every thing gone to leeward, and capsized in a confused manner; but what was singular, little water was to be seen abaft; this I attributed to her being so high in that quarter, and she was more by the head also. The rest of the hands I found were got into the hold, and as they came on deck were all in liquor; but as all were become masters now, and nobody left to throw the water out of the long boat, as the sailors term it, I had not a word to say, but to provide as well as possible against the consequences of such

conduct in future. The mate found a keg of gin in the steerage, and took a small sup, then handed it to me, but I declined it. Just then casting my eyes round, I espied one of those precious things called a biscuit, which I eagerly snatched up, and said aloud, "God be praised," then took a bit, tasting of bread once again, after above seven years abstinence, from hard necessity. Observing that Somer began to be somewhat intoxicated, I chid him for it, saying, they did not know how precious their time was ; and if they did not make the most of the calm weather they might lose every thing, and begging them likewise to recollect how soon the Indians might be down. He took this kindly, and told the rest what I said, and they seemed to be a little more on their guard after this. Somer likewise informed the mate, that there were two of the people dead in the forecastle, as they told him. I said, these were probably miserable examples

of that excess they all seemed so ready to indulge in, and thinking death inevitable, had taken their fill of liquor, to drown all thoughts of danger; their names he said were Verwill and Poerson.

After this, I begged Somer to ask the mate to look for some paper for me, if any could be come at. "Paper," he said, "dere is more as one boat load on board de ship;" with this I was much pleased. I desired him to mention it to Van Tulden; who, as soon as he could be made sensible of my desire, took the hint, and running forward by the mast clapt his hand on a large bale of it. Seeing me so elevated at this, he took his knife and began to cut it open, which produced a great treasure of this article; then going aft into his cabin, procured me a bottle of ink, as I thought. I got these things stowed very carefully in the boat. He then went to work again in the cabin, and got a parcel of clothing, several guns and pistols,

some bedding, and other things, then brought a quadrant and a compass; the people got out two barrels of beef, some bags of bread, with three kegs of gunpowder, and some brandy and gin. We put off with this cargo for the first time, and returned home quite safe. We found our females were now less terrified than before, which was owing to Brill's good conduct. The mate now began to reflect with himself, that he had forgotten to search for the log-book, to bring shot, bullets, and other things, which would be of great use to us. They made another trip to the wreck the next morning by daylight. I remained at home. They returned about the same time in the evening as before with a full cargo. This was repeated daily, till the ship was partly unladen, and we had a prodigious store of various articles. The wind now came round to the north, and blew so fresh,

there was no venturing out, and the sea beat in full on her upper works.

I forgot to mention, that the cat jumped into the boat as we came off the first trip; and no sooner did we reach the shore, than she flew to the fish garbage, and devoured it so greedily, that she was unable to quit the place, till nature, being so overcharged, threw it off and relieved her, or she must have died on the spot.

After every thing had been taken from the ship that could be come at, they began to consult what should next be done. In this council I could give no advice, as I knew no more of the coast than a child; I therefore left them to follow their own opinions.

CHAP. XIV.

WHILE these matters were in agitation, we were much troubled with the disorderly conduct of some of the men. Van Tulden and the boatswain did every thing in their power to keep them within bounds; but there was such a quantity of liquor, it was impossible to keep them sober, and as impossible to controul their conduct when intoxicated. Van Tulden privately advised me to secure some of the liquor for my own purposes, as the loss to those who were so intemperate in the use of it would be of general benefit. I profited

by this advice, and conveyed away four anchors of brandy, and a few kegs of gin, which, by the assistance of Harry and Toby, I properly secured from their knowledge, while they were sleeping.

It was at length concluded, that they should go to the southward in the long-boat, and leave the yawl with me. I asked them where they intended to touch first? They told me Puerto-bela, if they could reach it. They intended to keep in shore along the coast. "What latitude did they think we were now in?" They said, as they judged, about 11° and $30'$ north. "What did they conceive to be the name the country bore?" They believed it was Costa Rica.

I desired Van Tulden to leave the date of the year and day of the month, as I was ignorant in that respect. He then asked me for the bottle he had given me. I ordered Harry to fetch it. Some sort of pen was then to be provided. I was under

the necessity of borrowing a feather from one of my parrot's wings for this purpose. He desired Harry to get a little water in a shell. When it was brought, he took the bottle and emptied out of it a small quantity of greyish powder, and mixing it in the shell with his finger, produced ink.

N. B.—This was the first ink powder I had ever seen.

He then told me that Somer should speak it in English, or I should not understand his writing; but perhaps it would be better for me to write it myself, which I did thus—"Monday, the fifth day of the month of August, in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four." So that I found, in my reckoning, I had some how or other missed about six weeks; but this was a matter of little moment to me.

A very untoward circumstance now occurred. There were two men belonging to the crew who were absolute brutes—void of gratitude, humanity, and every

other principle that should distinguish man from the creatures beneath him. Their names were Claess Decker and Adam Brandt. These two profligates tried to pick a quarrel with me, and demanded the liquor which they said was missing. No argument had any effect with them. Brandt ran about, raving and swearing like a madman. I offered to restore the liquor. The rest of the crew insisted I should not by any means; for I had been a true friend to them, and it would only be doing an injury to the whole if I did, whereas it might at some future time be of much service to me. About half an hour after this, as Van Tulden and Jan Brill were sitting at victuals with me, we heard the report of a pistol. We jumped up immediately; I took up a maschut, and they each of them a pistol, and out we ran. The noise came from the cook-room, as I thought. The women were frightened, and running up the hill with the children, scream-

ing dreadfully. My blood began to mount. I flew to the kitchen; but just as we entered another pistol was fired. We then ran back, not knowing what to do; when out rushes Somer like a fury, with a pistol in his hand. We all three stood on our defence. He at once called out to me, in broken English, "never mind, skipper, never mind, dat devil is gone pon hell now." "For God's sake," said I, "Somer, are you mad too; tell me what is the matter at once, or I will cut you down?" "Vel den, dat devil Brandt, he vill say Toby hites da chin. He say, Toby say, neet him dout; dan dis hell-son he shoot him in von minuet. Ont dat I rones and plows out his pranes, and dat is all." We ran into the kitchen, and found poor Toby weltering in his blood. I stood like a man thunderstruck.

Now all was noise and confusion. The mate and boatswain then called Somer and me out to the people, who were all in an

uproar. They asked who were on our side? Immediately one and all came over to us, even Decker himself, through fear, I suppose, now his companion was no more.

I was afraid there was some conspiracy; but upon inquiry, it was found to be quite a sudden thing, and no plot at all, but that the whole was occasioned by the wretch Brandt's jealousy that Toby had hid the spirits. He, poor fellow, innocently lost his life, to my very great grief.

Every one commended Somer for what he had done; and when matters were a little quiet, I gave orders for the burial of my poor unfortunate and faithful friend. He was laid close by my wife. Ocuma would not be seen, but shut herself up. All my pleadings had no power over her. She remained in the back part of my dwelling for two whole days. At length, by great intreaty, we got her out; but she was so emaciated, it was quite pitiful

to look at her. I thought it best to let her have her own way. I knew she had lost a very sincere friend, and I one of the sweetest tempered creatures I had ever met with. Often have I shed tears on the grave of my faithful Toby.

Some of the people talked of burying Brandt; but I absolutely forbid it, saying no murderer's bones should defile the ground near my peaceful habitation. The majority then agreed that he should be sunk off at sea for sharks' meat; and this was accordingly done.

They now talked of leaving my shore, and offered me a place in the long boat, which I declined, thanking them for the kindness of their offer. I said, as I had two young children left to take care of, it became my duty, as a father, to provide for them. Should I leave them now, they would become untutored savages, and their defects and deficiencies would be justly chargeable to me, and I should deserve the

severest punishment from heaven for neglecting them.

Peace being again re-established, the mate called me aside, with Brill and Somer, and said they had been talking to him on a subject which nearly concerned Somer.

“ Well,” said I to Somer, “ if I can be
“ of any service to you, speak ?”

“ Yes,” he said, “ I been saying mit
“ Mr Van Tulden, dat you do me mush
“ good.”

“ In what way can I serve you ?”

“ Ick sal stay here mit you, unt liven
“ mit you, you will please. Ick ben much
“ feared for Decker, he put me von chail,
“ ven ick sal comen in Holland ; unt dat
“ you know Van Tulden.”

I asked Van Tulden if he consented ?
To which he replied, “ Yes.”

I then inquired of Somer, whether he
had a wife or children ? If he had, it
would be better for him not to remain with

me, but to retire to some other part of the world, where there was a possibility of providing for his family. He said he had none to care for but himself; and that he was no way inclined to run headlong into danger, while it was in his power to prevent it. "Well then," said I, "shipmate, since it is so, I shall be proud to have you for my companion, you may therefore acquaint your old friends with your resolution, and that, from this time, you and I have one and the same interest, you may therefore consider yourself as fully out of Decker's power, and set his malice at defiance."

The mate then called Brill the boatswain, and they both shook me by the hand, and told Somer, "whatever of their stores was not of immediate necessity to them, they would leave behind for our use. I thanked them very heartily; acknowledging, whatever they should think proper to leave with us, we should consider our-

selves under the greatest obligation to them for. They said I deserved every thing from them, and wherever they went, they should bear my kindnesses in remembrance ; and if they lived to return to Holland, would report my Christian-like behaviour, to their owners.

Van Tulden desired Godart Somer to call all the men together. He then retired inwards—seated himself at my table—took pen, ink, and paper, and drew up a sort of protest in Dutch—read it over to them, and they all put their names to it. The substance of it was, that after the loss of the ship, with Captain Meert and part of the crew, they very providentially met with an Englishman, who had been shipwrecked on the same coast several years before, and he had been, under Providence, the means of preserving their lives, and gave them every relief and assistance in his power. He asked them if they were willing to put their names to it? They

all answered, “yaw, yaw, yaw,”—heartily and kindly shook hands with me all round. The names of those who signed were as follow,—Jacob Van Tulden, Jan Brill, Adam Oest, Harman Byvank, Wouler Meyer, Albert Dubbels, Godart Somer, Claess Decker, Peter Bylert, Cornelius Deman, Teysen Willems, Davit Oert, and Joust Van Drill, a boy.

I begged that Somer might translate it, that I might have a copy to keep by me; which was done agreeably to my desire. Van Tulden then mentioned to them the affair of Somer's remaining with me. They were very well pleased, and thought he was much in the right so to do; though what he had done in respect to Brandt was no more than common justice, as he was a villain and a murderer, and brought his death upon himself.

After this they began to make ready as fast as possible, having fitted up the long boat to the best advantage for their run,

and got on board all they could conveniently stow. The carpenter Adam Oest had caulked her afresh, and she was quite tight and trim: they only waited for a favourable wind to commit themselves once more to the ocean. About three days after it came round to the north-east, and they began to muster all hands, being twelve in number. I told Somer to speak to the mate, and tell him, that it was my particular request he would do me the favour not to mention any thing concerning my being on the coast, when they came among the Spaniards, as he well knew my reasons for making this request; that he would likewise not fail to forward my letter to my mother by the very first opportunity. All this he faithfully engaged to do.

As they were just upon their departure, I summoned all my family. Van Tulden saluted the women and children, with tears in his eyes, shook hands with Harry, and all the crew followed the example.

After which, turning to me, he offered to put a few pistoles into my hands, which I refused, and bid Somer inform him, that I should think myself almost as bad as Brandt should I accept them ; they could be of little use to me in my situation, but they might prove of most essential service and benefit to them where they were going. He then laid his arms over my shoulders, and said, “ You ben von goot vriend, mynheer.” Then turning to my old ship-mate Somers, said something in Dutch, and dropt on his knees. I took the hint, and as they all knelt, I made a sign to my people, and we joined them. By his manner he seemed to me very devout. They began to sing a psalm or hymn, and when they had done they all got up, and took their leave of me and my family in a very hearty and affectionate manner. Just as they were stepping on board, I called for a large bottle they had given me, and made them all take a parting drop of brandy

with me. They then shoved off, and we gave them three cheers. They began to row away down the lagoon, and we ran up the hill to see them out. When they got so far out as to give the reef a good birth, they bore away before it, and in about two hours we lost sight of them, as they doubled a point. From the time of their first landing, they were with us about three weeks, and took their departure on Friday the 30th August 1754. I must candidly confess, that except Brandt and Decker, they had all behaved during their stay with us like honest and quiet men. While they continued at my dwelling, I made all the women sleep in the interior part, as a necessary precaution, having observed some of the men a little too fond of Jessy, but Ocuma kept a keen eye over her, by my direction.

I now began to think it necessary to make some new regulations in my family. Toby was dead, and Somer, who remained

with me in his room, might not altogether be so tractable. The principal authority must be vested in one, and a due subordination established among the rest. My own experience told me, that I was the proper person to support this dignity for the benefit of the whole community. I explained this to Somer, with my reasons. He was fully satisfied, and promised most implicit obedience to my will; to which he said he was inclined, not more by his interest than his inclination. I particularly stated to him, that he must know I was much better acquainted with the manners and dispositions of the Indians than he could possibly be; and as most likely we should be visited by them soon, he must be particularly attentive to my instructions as to his behaviour and conduct towards them; he might depend that I would make every thing as easy to him as possible, and be his friend on every occasion. I was pleased to see, that he had obtained

already the sincere attachment of Harry, which was proved by his readiness in revenging the death of his countryman and friend on that brutal murderer Brandt. He promised due submission to me in every thing—acknowledged himself a stranger, and indebted for support and protection to my humanity and kindness. I then desired him to take Harry as an assistant, and fit up for himself a good birth in the kitchen to sleep in.

N. B. I had long made it a regulation in my family to set aside the seventh day as the Sabbath, a day of rest and thanksgiving: I mean of rest from every thing but necessary labour; and I explained to those of my household, in the most simple and plain manner possible, the reason of this institution; and from the natural infirmities of our nature, and the many accidents to which we were daily exposed, how necessary it was to deprecate the Divine wrath, to supplicate the Almighty to assist

us with his power, to regulate our lives according to his will ; and to give us strength and courage to support ourselves under the trials we might meet with in our daily progress,—to worship him and to praise him for the benefits we received, and the comforts we enjoyed, and more particularly for the security and protection he had been pleased to afford us on this desert shore.

I now resolved to take Ocuma to be my wife, and hastened to make this declaration, lest Somer might anticipate my inclinations by a similar proposal. I took the first opportunity of giving Patty notice of my intentions, and desired her to communicate them to Ocuma in her own language, as she had not sufficient knowledge of English to understand me. After this, in about an hour Patty returned, and called me aside ; she told me that Ocuma expressed her readiness to do all I would have her, if I thought her good enough ; and that she would willingly serve me and my chil-

dren with all her heart. "Then tell her to come to me," said I. She did as I desired, and brought her. I then summoned the rest of my family; and when they were assembled, I took Ocuma by the hand, and declared before them all, that I took her to be my wife, and mother to my children. They all expressed the greatest joy on this occasion, and thus I became a married man again.

The ship showed herself above water for a long time after this, and Somer went with Harry now and then to bring off what they could find from her. My new friend acted in all respects as became his condition; but one morning he came in and informed me, that he saw five Indians coming down the hill, and immediately caught up his gun. "What are you at?" said I; "there is no fear; they are my very good friends; but go and call Harry and his wife here."

The Indians now approached, and when they observed another white man in my company, they halted; I beckoned, and they advanced, saluting me in a very kind way. These Indians were Vinne-quote, or the smoaker, and brother to Ocuma; Selacato, or a joyous person, conducted hither by Owa-gamy; Futatee and Noona-waiak, my old friends.

Owa-gamy asked directly for Luta. Upon this, I withdrew to a distance, leaving Harry to explain the melancholy story, which took up almost an hour, all which time I kept out of sight. When I returned, I seated myself alone. I had no sooner done this, than my three friends came all to me, and shewed the greatest tokens of compassion, in plain and unfeigned expressions of condolence. Then they all hugged Somer, as if they would have eaten him. They told Harry, they were well pleased to learn that I had taken poor

Toby's widow to be my wife, as it was a proof of the regard I had for him; they said it was the custom with them to do the same among friends. They likewise informed us, that they had seen a boat full of white men pass by their shore. Harry told them, they were messmate Somer's friends. When they heard this, they said, had they known it, and they had landed among them, they should have used them kindly for our sakes; observing, that as I had treated their people so well on every occasion, it was their duty to do the same by mine. Owa-gamy, continuing this conversation, added, that good firm friends were to be compared to a strong man, whose two arms assisted each other to fight and defend the body from injuries, while his two legs were the mutual supporters of his body, in standing, walking, running, &c. I answered, that Somer and I were greatly beholden to him and his people, and should on every occasion do our ut-

most to deserve the continuance of their friendship.

Owa-gamy desired me not to be cast down; saying, that as to my loss, he thought I was well recompensed, for the spirit of Luta was now centered in the heart of Ocuma, and the fidelity of Toby repaid by the attachment of my new friend Somer, who shewed himself to have a good spirit, when he revenged the death of that good creature. He then made a remark on the practice of drinking strong liquors, and said, perhaps our people did not use the same caution as the Indians, when they took fool's water, the name given to spirits. On such an occasion, it was their constant rule to lay aside their arms, and give them into the keeping of some particular person, lest they should become as foolish as the water was itself, and should revenge the deaths of their old fathers, a thousand moons ago.

The Indians staid with us four days, and I gave each of them a piece of woollen cloth, which we had brought from the wreck. Somer desired Harry to ask if they would bring some tobacco the next time they paid us a visit? They said we should have enough, and then left us.

Shortly after they were gone, Ocuma asked Harry, if Somer was not younger than me? I desired him to inform her that he was my elder, and that she would soon see his beard as long as mine for want of a razor. This put me upon trimming mine with my scissars. My whiskers were now become quite formidable. Harry plucked his out by the roots, after the fashion of his country.

We had now collected a large quantity of goods from the wreck, and it took us two days to stow them away to the best advantage. I used sometimes to dress myself up in Dutch clothes to divert the Indians. We had likewise a store of

strong liquors, though I was often sorry we had a drop, as I found Harry grow too fond of it; but I thought of a scheme to spoil his relish for it. One day, while he was absent, I conveyed a quantity of grou-par slime into a bottle, and then filled it with brandy and gin mixed; I then put it out of sight till an opportunity should offer; which I did not wait for long. Soon after he asked me for some. I told him if he loved it so much, it would make him hate his best friends, it should only be used in case of sickness; so a very small quantity served him this time; but before night, he complained of being sick. "What, very sick?" "Yes, very sick," he said. I then gave him the bottle, and desired, when he had taken the quantity he liked, that he would go to sleep. This went off very well; I knew what I had to expect. As he did not make his appearance for some hours, I sent to inquire how he was. I found he was fast asleep, and so he con-

tinued during the evening. After I had been on my bed for some time, Patty came with a torch and awakened me ; she said Harry was very sick, very sick indeed. The gleam of the lamp upon her sombre countenance, and the cavern partially illumined by its rays, gave the whole scene the appearance of the operations of witchcraft. I got up, however, to save appearances, and affected much concern. The women were all in tears, and Jessy ran to call Somer. No sooner did he come, than like a true Dutchman, he cried out, "Der tivel, dat fellow is tronken, is tronk, dat is all." And indeed the poor devil had taken such a quantity, that I began to be fearful of the consequences ; he had almost finished the whole bottle, and it had worked him fore and aft at such a rate, that he could scarcely hold up his head. The next morning he began to come to a little, but was very stupid and sick. I asked him if he would have a lit-

tle more of the good stuff; he shook his head, turned away and said nothing. I let him continue thus for some time, and then renewed my lecture. I painted out to him the consequences of such excess; suppose it had made him as mad as it had made Brandt, and in his drunken fit he had thought proper to shoot me, as Brandt did Toby. I found this was enough, he fell down at my knees and said, "no, no, good brother Penoly, the Great One make me sick, purpose to make me sorry, make me hate fool's water, no take more, never, never;" and away he ran. From this day I could entirely trust him, as he would not touch it; therefore of this article we had plenty without use.

I will now mention the behaviour of our Indians, when they saw me begin to write my Journal. They would gather round me, and whisper to each other; and if they crowded me too much, if I did but put my pen towards them, they would

jump back quite terrified. One day as I was reading it over to Somer, Harry said, that now he was sure I was very cunning man, for I could make all my old words speak again quite new, and that I could make dead people talk.

“How so?” said I.

“Did not I hear what sister Luta talk to Mr Somer just now, and she is in the grave yonder?”

This made me smile, and I told him I would make little Owen do as much soon.

“Aye, aye,” said he, “when he got beard like you.”

Sometimes he would touch the point of the pen, and say, “no wonder birds talk so well, when so many feathers talk in their wings.”

I found it very difficult to make my knife sharp enough to make pens. My pens too were not of the very best quality, being from turkey, buzzard, and from hawk and bald eagles.

After we became more settled, I asked Somer one day where he was born? He told me at Middleburg in Zealand. "Do you not remember Peter Cass, and George Nielson, your countrymen, on board the Harrington?" said I. "Yes," he replied, "very well." I then told him Cass died at Kingston that same voyage. One word brought on another; and talking of the wars, he said it was now peace between England, France, and Spain. I asked him how long? He said in the year 1748 peace was made. This made me rejoice, as thinking if the Spaniards should find me now, I might expect more favour from them.

I was a long time at my Journal day by day, before I could bring it to this period of time. What has preceded, has been collected as I could best remember; but I persuade myself nothing of any note has escaped, as I was very careful to retain what I thought worthy of notice. But I must observe, in respect to Indian informa-

tion, the spelling their names and the like, I may not be quite exact. A man, to give the true pronunciation to their words, should be born among them. Neither is it possible in any language precisely to copy their ideas, and the manner of conveying them.

CHAP. XV.

NINTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

My ninth year now commenced. The last had been a very busy year. It was now the 15th June 1755. Somer and I were sitting by the light of a torch, telling old stories, and reciting the adventures of our youth, when he was suddenly struck over the eye by a very large beetle, which gave him extreme pain. These beetles I had seen frequently in the woods in the evenings, some of them as large as a hen's egg, and of a dark green colour. They have a long kind of forceps like the claw of a crab, set with fine teeth, with a black polish, very bright and shining. With these

forceps, they lay hold of the young twigs of trees, such as they can grasp, then expanding their wings, begin to whirl about round the branch with great force and velocity, and by that means cut the bark through to the sap; then by hanging under, they suck it in. Our females at times used to produce a sort of music with two or three of them; they made them fast to long strings, as our children do chaffers, and then hung them up in the cavern passage, where they would spin round, and it was surprising to hear the sounds they made; sometimes like the deep pipes of an organ, according to the magnitude of their wings, and they would sometimes strike chords most sweetly. Poor Somer's eye was not well for a week and more; but by the Indian method of cure it was quite restored again.

Being on the subject of insects, I shall now describe a kind of ants which are very common here. They are of a dirty white

colour, and of a shape very different from other ants. They build their nests in the limbs of trees, old stumps, and rocks; the nest is as large as a bee-hive, and of a consistency like coarse brown bread. From this nest, or general commonwealth, they have generally three or four high roads, composed of the same substance. These roads are arched over, and of the size of a man's little finger, so that all their works are deeds of darkness. They never fail to have one of these paths lead to the water, and if at any time accident should damage this causeway, which they lead up and down the bodies of trees, rocks, and the like, they at once repair the breach again; but the matter of which they compose it, is not of the same colour when new, being then grey. Should you break any part of this road, you will soon see two or three ants make their appearance, but retire back again, as if to make their report; then incontinently comes forth a multitude, in the

greatest hurry and confusion imaginable. Yet if you watch, they all forsake it again, leaving the breach as it was ; but if you retire and visit the place the next morning, you will find it fully repaired. But should you break it down a second time, in that case they will not repair it as before, but they carry it round circular, or in a large curve, somewhat altering the path, and then join it as before. The Indians say, the nest burnt to ashes is good for many disorders ; but of this I know nothing. They are very destructive, which I know by experience, as in one night they ate off one of the uprights of my table, and their bite gives most excruciating pain ; therefore whenever we discovered a road leading our way, we constantly routed them by that general destroyer, fire.

How often have I soothed my melancholy thoughts in this solitude, by contemplating the divine works of the almighty framer of the world. In these moments

I felt myself humbled, but not degraded. I could not explain the mysteries of creation, nor lift up the impenetrable veil which divine wisdom had interposed to restrain human pursuits within proper limitation. But I felt myself a reasoning being, dignified by an intellectual capacity superior to the animals around me. I could trace events up to their causes, and derive consequences from remote relations, by a faculty finer than instinct; a faculty which seemed to unite me to the divine author of my being, in whose image I was formed.

How often did I wish to have the associate of my youth, Bill Falconer, with me, to explore these beauties, and to record them in his sweet poetry; but, alas! I parted with him in Old England, never perhaps to meet more in this world. His may be a happier lot. Led by a gentler star, he may pass through this busy scene with more ease and tranquillity than has

been the portion of his humble friend Penrose. And though, when time or accident may destroy this mortal body, my bones may be destined to whiten the unfrequented desert, may thine, my gentle friend, rest in peace in the sepulchre of thy fathers ! It is my duty to submit to the dispensations of Providence ; and, in the contracted circle in which I live, contentedly and cheerfully administer to the comforts and necessities of those around me.

My messmate Somer often expressed his regret that he was not furnished with a pipe of tobacco. This was a difficulty I knew not how to surmount. I had some old stuff by me, but from length of time it could be of no use ; but even if it were, what were we to substitute for a pipe ? He observed there were pipes enough on board their ship, but we never saw any. I told him if he and Harry could find out any thing that would answer the end of tobacco, I would provide him with

a pipe. He then consulted Harry on the subject ; the Indians frequently smoaked whilst they were with us, but the tobacco was rolled into segars, such as were used by the Spaniards. Harry said he knew a plant that was often used as a substitute for tobacco, and they soon procured some. I then bid him knead up some clay very fine ; this I rolled round a wire, and then contrived a bole, somewhat rude I confess, but such as would answer the purpose. We then burnt it, and from this rude essay, Somer made a kind of mold with his knife ; and from this time we were not in want of pipes, such as they were.

Somer was extremely pleased with this contrivance, and seemed to speak with more content and spirit with the pipe in his mouth. Harry and I began to practise likewise, and in a short time, became very notable smoakers. Now and then Somer and I used to indulge ourselves very spa-

ringly with a drop of liquor ; but Harry could not be persuaded to touch it.

I now began to instruct my little Owen in the alphabet. I made the letters plain and distinct, in the best manner I could, with my pen. During this occupation, the rest of my family would sit round me ; so that they all learnt a little. I would now have given a thousand dollars, if I possessed them, for a bible ; but it was not to be had. Little Owen could repeat the Lord's prayer without missing a word ; and perhaps was the first of the Indian natives on this coast who could do it in the English language.

Thus I used to pass my time. Sometimes with my gun, but this was seldom, as we had no great store of shot ; at other times, writing, fishing, and the like. Sommer employed himself in making a mast and sails for the yawl ; and when he had done, we got her keel up, and payed her bottom with tar, pitch, and sand, thinking

it would keep out the worm, and we found it answer the purpose tolerably well.

In comparing my present state with what it had been, I found myself very comfortably settled; but my tranquillity was soon disturbed by the discontent of my companion Somer. He began to alter his carriage towards me,—he would take his pipe and retire to a distance, and remain absent an hour or two at a time. I observed this some time before I mentioned it to him; and finding that he continued in the same sulky mood, I was resolved to have a serious talk with him on the subject. Therefore, one evening I proposed to him to take a trip over to the Long Key—perhaps we might find some things drifted on shore from the wreck. He said, “with all my heart.” “Well, then,” said I, “Harry shall get the boat ready to-night; we will take our guns and lines, and Swift shall go with us.” This pleased very well, and the next morning we put

off, with our pipes in our mouths. I put a small quantity of brandy in the boat, and left Harry governor at home, with orders, that if any thing should chance to happen to require our presence, he was to hoist a piece of an old ensign which we had preserved from the wreck.

Soon after we arrived at the key, as we were walking towards the point, Somer cried out with an oath, "dere is von schip comen." "Avastswearing, shipmate," said I, "in what quarter do you see her?" "Dere, see mit mine finger." I took out my glass and discovered a small sloop standing to the westward. I told him it was a Spaniard bound down the coast, and could be of no consequence to us, as she would touch nowhere near us. "This is what I fear," said he, "I wish she would; you don't want to leave this place and these Indian women, but would live here for ever." Just as I was about to reply, he took notice that our signal was out. I imme-

diately prepared to return, thinking that the vessel perhaps was not the only cause; when he found this, he said somewhat sharply, "what, will you not stay to see how the ship steers?" "Not I indeed," I replied, "I am sure she does not intend to speak with us." With that I got into the boat, and he followed, muttering between his teeth. The moment we were seated, I addressed him thus:

"I perceive plainly, Mr Somer, that
"you are not disposed to reconcile your-
"self to the will of Providence; it gives
"me much concern to observe your rest-
"less and unquiet disposition, under such
"infections as it hath pleased the Almigh-
"ty to lay on you. What do you want,
"that a reasonable being in such a si-
"tuation might not do without? Had
"you been cast on this shore as I was,
"destitute of every thing, naked almost,
"and without hope of assistance, with
"nothing to support nature but a few

“ shell fish, which were to be eaten raw ;
“ without a fellow mortal to converse
“ with, and with the continual expecta-
“ tion of being knocked on the head by
“ the savages, or devoured by wild beasts—
“ you might then have complained, but
“ you must have submitted. How diffe-
“ rent has been your situation? think on
“ this, and you will see the extent of your
“ ingratitude to a good God, who has
“ preserved you ; who has spread for you
“ a table in the wilderness, and provided
“ you with food, with raiment, and with
“ human society, to comfort and relieve
“ you. You might have left this place
“ with your companions ; it was your
“ choice to remain with me? You knew
“ that by returning with them you were
“ liable to punishment for the death of
“ Brandt ; though I think, in the eye of
“ heaven, you were fully justified in that
“ transaction ; but as it was in some de-
“ gree taking the law into your own

“ hands, the law might have condemned
“ you.” (I found he began to be affected.)
“ My advice to you is, to resign yourself
“ entirely to the will of God, and if you
“ repeat this resolution every morning at
“ your first rising, you will find your
“ heart more at ease. I speak from ex-
“ perience ; it has been my constant prac-
“ tice, and I have benefited by it. Should
“ Providence so order, that I may again
“ visit my native country, I shall be
“ thankful for the blessing ; if I am doom-
“ ed to remain where I now am till my
“ death, I trust I shall not repine, but make
“ myself as contented as the nature of my
“ situation will allow.”

“ Well, well, Mr Penrose, say no more ;
“ if I must die in this country, I cannot
“ help it, I will do my best to be satis-
“ fied ; you are my good friend ; I will
“ endeavour to think better than I have
“ done, so there’s an end on’t.”

When we got home, we found company arrived there before us, viz. Owa-gamy, Komaloot, and Vinne-quote, brother to Ocuma. Much joy was expressed on all sides at our meeting. Somer put on a more placid air, and we entertained them with the best we had. To my very great surprise, Somer took me aside, and begged I would treat with Owa-gamy to procure him a wife. I promised to comply, at the same time reflected with myself, what a strange inconsistency of character this man exhibited. Considering upon the whole this might turn out favourably for me, I desired Ocuma to mention the thing to Komaloot and the rest, which she did; and they returned this answer,—“That if Somer desired such a thing, he must come with them and look out a wife himself, as it was not the custom with them for the girls to hunt men, as men hunt deer in the woods.” This brought on a laugh at poor Somer’s expence; and I ob-

served, that to us this would be attended with a very great difficulty, as we did not know the way to their home. Komaloot then very archly asked, whether we desired for them to bring all the girls of their nation for him to choose one from the whole body? and if they did, they would soon eat up all we had before my new friend would find out one that should please him.

I desired Harry to tell Komaloot that I thought his remark a very just one; and that we had no other way to settle this business properly, but by Somer's returning with them, to try his own fortune, and that Harry should go with him, on condition that Vinne-quote, my new brother-in-law, would stay here in his room, with his sister, till they returned. After a consultation of about two hours, the matter was agreed upon, though not very much to the satisfaction of Patty, who did not like to

part with her husband, being near her time.

At length the day came when they were to set off, and as I was for the first time to part with my good friend Harry, I cannot express the reluctance I felt in my mind, and the depression of spirits which it occasioned, for I had the sincerest esteem and affection for him. They set off all of them well armed. My shipmate was dressed in a very odd garb—a pair of Dutch breeches, with a little short jacket, and one of my sombreros on his head. At their departure, I gave Owa-gamy a piece of cloth, and to the rest some trifles, by way of securing their interest in favour of my friends Somer and Harry.

I felt myself now as it were in a new situation, and such as I had not experienced before: Patty was all in tears; the poor children crying for Harry, and I was myself in a state of great affliction; for, having been long used to the society of my

good friends who had left me, the deprivation was most severely felt. But, however, on this, as on all other occasions, I found patience my best remedy.

I began now to occupy myself more than usual in all our domestic concerns and wants. I was obliged to accompany Vinne-quote every where, as even if he had been ever so well acquainted with our premises, not understanding a word of English, I could give him no instructions.

Thus we remained for about a month; and now we began to keep a sharp look out, as we expected them by sea, if Somer succeeded in his matrimonial expedition. During their absence we got one warree; and Vinne-quote, being among the traps, espied a tiger devouring a piccary in one of them. He ran to inform me; and I directly charged my piece with two balls, and quickly dispatched him. No tumbler could have shewn better postures than he did; but Vinne-quote soon put an end to

his dancing. He then drew him out and dragged him home. We stripped him at once of his beautiful skin, and spread it out to dry.

Five weeks were now passed, and yet no signs of our gentry. I began to be very uneasy, but kept my fears to myself, that I might not unnecessarily alarm Patty. I often reflected how much happier I lived when I had only Harry and his sister with me ; but these days were now passed, what the future might bring forth was known only to him in whose hands are the issues of life and death.

When first I landed on this desolate shore, what would I have given for the consolation of a companion ! Since that time, I have been fearful of having too many. Whether, in future, I was to have too little or too much company, was a question quite beyond my ability to resolve. Thus are we poor mortals tost about on the ocean of human life, continually shift-

ing from one scene to another, never at rest, and never knowing exactly, or being contented with, that station which is best suited to our nature and happiness; but ever changing present security for uncertain prospects, and permanent and solid comforts for projects of doubtful tenure and fanciful expectation. Like children, who grow weary of their play things, and are not satisfied till they take them to pieces, and by gratifying their curiosity, render them useless for ever.

These reflections were in a great measure produced by the fickle and variable disposition of Somer, who used to wonder at my fondness for Ocuma, and think it impossible that I could receive any pleasure from her society; and yet was now in search of an object of the same colour and nation, to be the companion and solace of his retirement. So have I rejected dainties at my mother's table; but want and the imperious calls of hunger taught

me a better lesson. The neglected crust has been eagerly seized, and I have thanked God for the coarsest supply.

I had contrived an angling-rod and line, with which, at times, I used to amuse myself at the head of the lagoon. As I was one day at this sport, I heard the sound of a conch shell at a distance. I immediately quitted it—returned home and acquainted my household. I then got my glass and colours and mounted the hill of observation. I soon perceived three canoes coming round the point of the key; I then went down to dress myself to receive my guests with the more honour. I put on a suit of a Dutch seaman's clothes, and told Ocuma to wear my tiger jacket—gave a piece of red cloth to Vinne-quote, and a blue piece to Patty. Thus equipped, we got into the yawl, and went down the lagoon to meet them, leaving Jessy with the children.

They soon came into the lagoon, and met us, blowing their shells. As they drew near, I heard messmate Somer begin a Dutch song, spreading abroad his hands, and shewing every token of great joy. Well, thought I, you are pleased at length I hope? Soon after Harry began his song. Upon this, Patty burst into a fit of crying and laughing in the same breath. They now all landed and came in. The first who jumped ashore was Harry. He ran with open arms to his wife, then began to hug me and all the rest. Somer then came forward and shook me most heartily by the hand. "You have succeeded I hope?" said I. "O! yaw, yaw," he replied, "ober I vill shew you mine bretty young wife Wanee."

Our company consisted of Komaloot, Futatee, and four more Indians, who had all been here before, and four ladies, viz. the wives of Komaloot and Owa-gamy, the bride, and another young woman.

As soon as we got to our dwelling, Somer brought me his lady by the hand, and presenting her, said, "dere is Madam Somer." She was a good jolly figure, aged about eighteen, as I guessed. I told him, I hoped he was now satisfied, and would be more contented for the future. I then welcomed them all, and desired Komaloot to send away a gang to strike fish, as we were not provided for a wedding dinner. Harry, upon this, cried out, they were married already. "That may be," said I, "but I am resolved to have it celebrated here again." Somer approved my resolution, and we began to give a loose to joy and festivity.

I went and made up a good bowl of grog. We then took to our pipes, and the ladies retired to chat by themselves. My shipmate was now become a new man—no silent long puffs of tobacco; his tongue ran the whole time, and he gave us a full account of the reception he met with

among the Indians, and of their manners and customs.

Thus we spent our time, till our sportsmen returned, with plenty of fish and fowl. As evening came on, I ordered Harry to provide a good parcel of torches, and we made free use of our grog, but not a single person was intoxicated. This I took special care to prevent. About six in the evening the ladies made their appearance again. I saluted the bride and the rest of the company. This was a signal for them to do the same, which produced some merriment. After supper we began to dance, sing, and play, which continued till the sun rose upon us. At last we all grew so weary, that we were glad to turn in to rest, but not one the worse for the liquor he had drank. Thus ended messmate Somer's wedding entertainment; and I must own I was very merry on the occasion; and what made me more so, was the degree of content which Somer seemed

to enjoy. His melancholy proceeded from his being like a bird without his mate. This seems to be the unvaried law of nature throughout the universe.

The company staid with us only four days, then took Vinne-quote with them. Madam Somer and my lady soon became sociable together. Harry told me I had forgotton one thing, which was to give my wife and Madam Somer new names in English. "Well then," said I, "what is the young girl's name?" Somer told me it was a long one, and he could not speak it well. Ocuma told me her name was Matta-nany, or a sweet taste. I then desired her husband to chuse what name he thought best for her, and he called her after a sister of his own, Eva, or Eve. I replied, I would call my wife likewise after my sister Betty. Thus was this matter settled.

I told Somer it was time we should think of turtling, it being now the season,

and we followed it up with tolerable success for some time. On the 7th of January, Patty presented Harry with a son. He came to me full of joy with the news; but it was soon damped by the absence of little Morgan, who had been missing some time, and could not be found. At last we had the melancholy news brought that he was drowned in the lagoon. He had been attempting to catch fish with a stick, and when found must have been dead more than an hour. Poor little fellow! I was greatly afflicted at his death; but accustomed as I had been to grief and disappointment, I kissed the rod with humility and resignation, and submitted myself with Christian patience to the infliction which it had pleased Providence to visit me with. After the burial was over, Harry came very innocently to know what name I would give his son. This abrupt question at this moment hurried my spirits. I answered somewhat hastily, "call him Job."

“What is Job?” said he. I told him patience. “Well that is a good name,” said he; and so the point was settled.

Nothing happened worth notice for a considerable time. We continued to live together in the most friendly manner. We were nine in family. Jessy was become a very fine young woman, and so faithful and obedient in all things, that she would have exposed her life at any time to serve either me or my wife. I now enjoyed full peace of mind, nor had I a wandering thought in my heart. In this state I concluded my ninth year, according to my reckoning.

CHAP. XVI.

TENTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

As I was one day leaning against the rock, near the entrance of our dwelling, I could not help contemplating the scene before me, with a degree of complacency that soothed and exhilarated my spirits. I beheld it with a painter's eye, and would willingly have transformed to canvas the picture before me, but the materials were wanting. The reader will therefore accept of my description, and such a rude sketch as my poor ability can furnish him with. First, was to be seen the mouth of a large cavern, somewhat resembling the lofty doorway to an old Gothic cathedral, except that

the arch was much wider. On the right was my wife Betty, with Patty sitting behind her, braiding her long black hair. A little without the entrance was young Owen taking aim at his uncle Harry, who stood on the other side of the entrance, with his back against the rock, as a kind of butt for him, and catching the arrows as they came in his hand. Somer sitting against the side of the rock within, with his red pipe in his mouth, tailoring, with an old red Dutch cap faced with fur on his head. Eva was receiving a bowl of stewed fish from young Jessy before the entrance. About the centre, within, was my writing table covered with a piece of sailcloth, at which I considered myself placed, with my pen in my hand, and surveying the scene around me. The two dogs and cat before the door-way basking; the parrot's cage on one side of the cave, with the bird on the top of it, the cage an oblong square. From a crevice in the rock projected a long stick,

on which Moggy the maccaw was to be seen. Over the cavern an immense rock overhung with trees, except towards the top, where stood our flag-staff; the flag was about seven feet long, and five deep, consisting of only two stripes, the upper blue, the under white.

N. B. We wore but little clothing when within doors. The women seldom more than a striped cloth about the middle, and indeed this was almost the only article of dress that distinguished my whole family.

Finding Somer in a communicative mood, I begged him to give me a more particular detail of his journey to the land of matrimony. He said, that as for food they now and then caught land crabs, and roasted them; they likewise killed two monkeys, which afforded a delicious repast to the Indians. They went over one very long and high hill, with but little wood on it, then descended to a large pond

or lake, by the side of which they walked about five miles, as he judged; and here they saw a number of large and very frightful animals, both in the lake and on its banks, some of them with very long tails. These I supposed to have been alligators. He said that not being used to travel so hard, it made his feet blister, so that his guides were obliged to walk his pace, and were always willing to halt, when he expressed a desire so to do. On the 5th day, in the evening, they came to a place where some plantain trees grew, and there seating themselves, made a hearty meal; so much so, that they finished all they had in store; but instead of making up a fire as usual, they got up to proceed on their journey. This not a little dismayed him; and he asked Harry if they intended to travel all night. "No, no," said he, "we are now come home;" and in a short time they heard the crowing of cocks, and presently after came to a large wigwam. Here the

Indians seated themselves, and began to make an odd noise with their hands held hollow before their mouths. This brought forth two Indians, who directly knew them, and they all entered the wigwam. Here they slept till the day appeared, then a number of voices were to be heard, with conches blowing, &c. Soon after many Indians came from all quarters and saluted them, with several women and children, who gazed at him with great curiosity. Finding himself in the midst of them, he offered to shake hands with some of them, but none of the younger sort would touch him by any means. Then Owa-gamy came and took Harry by the hand, and led him about from house to house as a great curiosity, or lost sheep found again. In a day or two they began to grow more free, and would gather round Harry and him to hear them speak English, with which they were highly delighted, and frequently endeavoured to repeat the words after them. He said

it was more than a fortnight before they took the least notice of the affair he came upon. Harry told him then, that he would urge Komaloot to hasten the business. He spoke to him accordingly. His answer was, "he did not see that the girls avoided him, and all would be well in good time." Soon after this Harry told him there was a girl in the next wigwam with whom he had conversed, and that she expressed a sort of desire to live with Ocuma, so that if he could get her brother's consent, he was sure she would have him, as he had given her great encouragement, by acquainting her with the great love Penoly shewed to his wives. He desired Harry to speak to her brother. This he did, and soon after Owa-gamy and the rest assembled on the occasion. Harry told him the matter had been represented to the brother in the most advantageous light, and he gave his full consent. Having seen and admired this girl beyond any other, he desired a meet-

ing of all the parties. In full assembly he took the girl by the hand, and asked her, by means of Harry, if she was willing to be his wife. She answered in the affirmative, and her brother at once presented her to him. The wedding was accordingly celebrated with much joy and festivity, a few days before they set off on their return to my habitation. Thus ended his account of this expedition.

Soon after this, as my wife was sitting near the entrance of our dwelling, she called to me, and desired me to observe what a large guano there was on the green, among the lime trees; upon this I called to Harry, and pointed out the bird to him as a fine mark; he took his bow and arrows in his hands and shot, but missed, as just at that moment it passed behind a bush; he then snatched up a maschut and gave chase to it. He soon after called to me, and I came up just as he had killed it. The guano had hid itself in an odd kind of nook, covered

with bushes. While I was surveying the place, I perceived, through the thicket with which it was surrounded, a heap of stones piled up like a pyramid, about the height of four feet. "Some Indian has been buried here," said I to Harry. "No, no," he replied, "we don't do that way." My curiosity being a good deal excited, I told him to call Somer; I shewed it to him, and begged his opinion. He said he really could not tell what to make of it; but moving some of the bushes to take a nearer inspection, he drew out a fragment of a glass bottle, and said, by this he believed it was the grave of some white man. "Well then," I replied, "we will search a little further into the affair." He seemed to be quite terrified at the idea of disturbing the bones of any dead person, and desired me to desist. I found by this and other instances, that he was extremely superstitious. "Never mind," said I, "I will take all the mischief to myself; come Harry, let us begin to work, and remember, Somer, if we find a treasure here, you will

have no share of it, unless you lend a hand." Like a true Dutchman, the expectation of profit for a moment dissipated his fears, and he worked as hard as the best of us. After digging for a considerable time, we came to a thick plank. "Now," said I, "let us lift it up." On removing it, we found beneath it part of a skeleton, with the head almost entire, but much decayed. Somer said he would now have no more to do in the business. Finding the skeleton lay between three other boards, I desired Harry to move the bones to another place. While he was at work I took up the skull in my hand, and found a deep indent in it on the right side, as if made with an axe, or some sharp heavy weapon. I shewed it to Somer, saying, there had been foul play here some time or other. When all was cleared off, and the under board removed, I perceived the neck of a large bottle just above the ground; it seemed to be stopped close with some black substance like pitch: I bid Harry

dig it up with his maschut, but to be careful not to break it ; by this time they had all got round us to satisfy their curiosity.

The bottle I carried home with me, and seating myself, took out my knife, to examine the contents. “ Well, Somer,” said I, “ will you go shares with me ?” I see, Mr Penrose,” replied he, “ that you are a man of a strong heart.” I then began to work about the neck of the bottle, but found it would be a very tedious piece of business, and concluded it would be much better to break it at once, as I knew from its lightness it could not contain liquor. I took up a stone for the purpose, and prepared to knock off the neck ; Somer was again seized with superstitious fear, and left the place, with evident marks of terror on his countenance ; the rest caught the infection, and retired to a good distance, lest some hobgoblin should make his escape from the bottle, and devour them without mercy. This made me smile, but did not alter my purpose ; I soon knocked off the neck, and

found the contents to be a roll of paper; I then asked Somer if he would draw near and examine it, but he refused to move an inch. I determined, therefore, to overhaul it myself, and found three rolls of paper, one within the other; the first was what the seamen term a round robin, which is an instrument so well known, both as to its effect and intention, as to require no farther explanation from me.

The second paper was an oath of most horrid import, such as usually attends the former, full of dreadful imprecations against any one who should betray the secret of their combination.

The third paper contained some very odd characters mixed with words, yet not so artfully contrived, but that with some labour and perseverance the secret might be unravelled; this was intended as a direction to their booty, and to be understood only by one of their own infernal crew. But heaven never intended they should reap any advantage from their wickedness.

After I had thoroughly examined these papers, and formed my own conjectures concerning them, I called to my friend Somer, and told him he need be under no apprehensions about them; they were machinations of the devil without doubt, but as we served a being of superior power and goodness, they could do us no possible harm, and perhaps in our hands might be the instruments of some benefit to mankind. This brought him to me at once. I put the papers into his hands, but he could make nothing of them. Perhaps I might have been equally ignorant, had I not learned in the island of New Providence, many of the atrocious practices of that set of miscreants called pirates. I therefore began to open his eyes on the subject. I told him nothing was more certain, than that the papers I held in my hand had belonged to people of this description; that they had been contrived to answer their own diabolical purposes. It had been an old custom among these wretches, when chance threw

any large booty in their way, not to trust it in their vessel, but to hide it on islands, quays, and secret places along the coast, using a most diabolical ceremony at the interment of their ill-gotten riches. Bad men are generally credulous and superstitious to a degree, and stick at no cruelty in the performance of those infernal rites they fancy necessary to their success and preservation. It was a custom with them, after having signed a round robin, and administered the oath of secrecy, to bury their treasure; they would then sacrifice some poor unfortunate Spaniard, negro, or mulatto, and bury him, in order that his spirit might be a kind of guardian, to preserve their treasure inviolate and untouched till they should return. Papers similar to the above, were usually buried near the corpse in bottles to preserve them; and they generally contained, in a kind of mystical writing, the secret of their treasure, and where it was deposited.

When I had given this affair full consideration, I laid the papers aside in a safe place. I took no further notice to Somer, as he seemed quite indifferent to the business. Harry and I went back to the spot, and threw all the stones together again, and deposited the bones in a hole close by. I had a full conviction in my mind that a treasure was buried near the spot, and made such marks as would assist any future examination I might think proper to make.

I now transcribe the Round Robin as exact as possible from the original manuscript. I presume the names to which crosses are added belonged to such of the party as could not write.

I likewise subjoin a faithful representation of the third paper, which deserves some notice, as, however extraordinary the figures may appear, they certainly contain the key to their mystery, and a full direction to their treasure, wherever it is to be found.

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NIMROD'S PORTION.



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Though I was persuaded this paper contained the very heart of their mystery, I kept my opinion of it to myself, till some future opportunity should induce me to make the necessary search. For the present, a ton of gold and silver was not equal in value to me with one hundred weight of iron; and however great the treasure might be, the discovery of it could add nothing to my happiness. Indeed the very idea of having such a deposit near me gave me much uneasiness. It pressed upon my mind continually, and night after night I dreamt of nothing but pirates. I fancied the spirit of the murdered victim was petitioning to be set free;--that the pirates were standing over and threatening us with the most horrid imprecations for discovering their riches. I was often so agitated with these dreadful images, that I started in my sleep, and often waked suddenly, making a great noise, to the great terror of those about me. I often regretted that Harry

had pursued the guano. If I had remained in ignorance of this circumstance, I might have been happier.

Time has the privilege of soothing our sorrows and lessening our fears. My nocturnal disturbances were less frequent. The tranquillity which reigned around me restored my agitated spirits, and I began to entertain a curiosity to examine the spot, unattended with any unpleasant ideas of danger in indulging it. Had Somer been equally anxious, I should at once have commenced my operations; but his phlegm produced a degree of indifference in my mind, and for the time I relinquished my purpose.

Some time after this, I proposed to Somer that we should take a voyage along the coast eastward, in order to make some further discovery that way. Somer himself had hinted a wish for such an excursion, as he had a great desire to see the large stone, Harry had told him of, at

Tower's Field. Harry was to be left with the women ; and when we had laid in a sufficient store of necessaries, we put down the lagoon in the yawl, and stood along the shore till we got to the old cave, where we landed and got some yams. We then stood out about an hour, when we tacked and stood away for the next bay. After some time we got the length of the creek, where, just as we were going to land, Swift jumped on shore after a guano, which he soon killed. We then put in and took our way through the bushes, but missed the true track, and could not find out the stone for our lives.

As we remained thus in suspense, our dog at a distance began to howl, and we were sure he had sight of something. We at once followed him, cutting our way with our maschuts, until we opened into a large pond ; here we heard noises resembling the whining of young whelps. The place was quite overgrown with large

reeds; and Somer cried out, "there were some of such devil creatures as he had seen when travelling with the Indians." I called off the dog directly, who trembled very much, and seemed greatly terrified. We now discovered near twenty alligators; many of them lay sunk beneath the surface of the water, with only the nose out. We quitted the place with horror; and I could not help reflecting how fortunate I had been to land and settle upon a part of the coast where no such monsters were to be met with, and perfectly ignorant that they were even in the neighbourhood. As I knew these animals seldom quit the ponds to ramble in the uplands, I gave myself but little concern about them.

We now set off on our return, and I struck as near as I could for the rock, which by good luck we soon found. We took a complete survey of it. Somer first thought it was an old tower; but when I observed to him, there was not the least sign of any

cement, he gave up that opinion. He said, as we came away, he had no doubt but that place had likewise been frequented by the pirates. I confirmed this opinion, and that they were acquainted with the whole coast. It being a general practice with them to lurk within lagoons, creeks, and the like, keeping a man posted either on a tree, hill, or mast-head, from whence he could discover a sail at a great distance.

We now went to the palmetto grove and caught three more guanos. We then stood away for Whale Point, as I termed it, but saw no more than the skull and some ribs sunk in the sand. When we got round we landed, and kindling a fire, roasted one of the guanos, and, with the addition of a yam, made a hearty meal.

I now proposed, that we should range the long bay which lay before us, about five miles in length, thinking that we might find something drifted there. In a short time we came up with the brig's

boom. A little farther on, we found three barrels of tar sunk in the sand, which was probably done by our young men. We thus trudged on for above four miles, as we judged, being more ground than I had gone over at one time for several years before. Finding nothing more worth picking up, we determined to return to our boat.

I then proposed to explore round the next point. We were obliged to give it a large birth, as there was a shoal and surf ran out from it. When we got round, we found the land stretch away to the left for about two leagues, then fetch a compass round, more eastward again, as far as the eye could reach. As we were exploring these new scenes, I observed a large smoke ascend about three leagues right a-head of us. I observed to Somer, that there were certainly people on that spot. Before I had done speaking, I descried a sail in the offing, standing to the southward, right

before the wind ; and so nigh in, that with my glass I saw she was a very large ship.

“ What say you now ?” said I. “ Shall we stand out and shew ourselves ?”

“ No, no !” he said, “ let us take down the mast and lie snug.”

This we did, and got her in behind a parcel of low bushes. Here we remained for some time, and saw another fire yet nearer.

“ Now,” said I, “ Somer, I am sure “ they are Indians or Spaniards ; for if “ they were people in distress, one fire “ would be sufficient as a signal.”

The ship kept her course ; and after she had passed by about an hour, we got into our boat, raised our mast, and put away round the point with a flowing sheet. When we got abreast of Tower's Field, we hauled in shore, and landing there, determined to sleep under our sail that night. The first thing we did the next morning was to get a fire made ; and having re-

freshed ourselves with a good meal, we went in search of some limes, and then, standing along shore homeward, put into the old plantation, gathered a parcel of yams, potatoes, &c. and arrived at our castle about noon. But how were we amazed on our landing, to find our kitchen burnt to the ground.

They all came running down, crying and clapping their hands for joy at our return. The accident which had happened had so affected me, that I knew not what to say to them, but seeing all my family alive revived my spirits; and I took my wife by one hand and little Owen with the other, and walked up in silence to our habitation—seated myself before the entrance, and then inquired into the particulars of this catastrophe. Harry informed me that Owen went into the kitchen, and was innocently playing with the fire, without knowing its power, till the whole was soon in flames;—that, with the women's help, he had saved

all the valuable things, at the great hazard of their lives. "Well," said I, "I am heartily glad things are no worse." The loss of our kitchen was, however, a matter of great concern to us all, as we had been so long accustomed to the use of it. It was likewise our hall of audience when we received any visitors.

The next thing was to rebuild our kitchen. One favourable circumstance was, that, where the fire would let them, they had preserved a quantity of the thatch by dragging it to a distance; by which means the uprights remained unhurt, being of a very hard wood. Somer and Harry were now employed in getting palmetto leaves to complete our thatch. This being done, we all went cheerfully to work. In about a fortnight our kitchen was finished; and, if it did not quite equal the magnificence of our former building, it answered our purpose equally well.

As the rainy season was now coming on, I proposed to Somer, that we should lay

in a good store of roots, and other things of that kind, which should be deposited in the back part of our dwelling, safe from any accident of fire. In regard to these long rains, they come on regularly twice a year, but those about October are of the longest duration. They hold on with but few intervals for three, four, or five weeks, more or less. And if, at any time, it should chance to hold up in the evening, the air was filled with myriads of fire flies, twinkling like so many stars; and of a serene night, when all was hushed, it might be almost said that you heard the grass grow, for, in the space of thirty hours, it would spring up nearly three inches. The most disagreeable thing at this season, was a kind of tree-toad, whose noise was the most doleful and melancholy that can be conceived.

We remained chiefly within doors during these rains, and employed ourselves in making pipes, pans, pots, &c. The women spun threads after their manner, and sewed

with sail-needles. By way of relaxation, we shot at marks with bows and arrows, or played at quoits.

My messmate Somer fell sick of the rheumatism, and became so lame in both arms that he could not feed himself; so that his poor wife was under the necessity of doing that good office for him. It soon after fell into his legs. This being the case, I began to exercise my ingenuity, and made a pair of crutches for him. Assisted by these, he contrived now and then to hobble down to the boat, in which he could sit and fish, and smoke his pipe at the same time; for, to do him justice, he did not like to be idle if he could possibly stir.

He continued in this crippled condition above three months, and then began to mend every day, till he threw his crutches aside entirely. He now, like a true Dutchman, began to think of employing himself in some useful undertaking. He fixed

his mind upon making a tub. I thought this beyond his skill, but he really accomplished it, much beyond my expectation. It would hold water well, and became of great use to us.

Nothing worth notice happened for some time after this, but the sight of one sail which passed by to the eastward. I had now completed my tenth year.

CHAP. XVII.

ELEVENTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

It chanced one day as I was at my table writing my Journal, and Somer with his pipe standing behind overlooking me, that he asked me somewhat suddenly, “where I had put that devil paper I had found in the grave?” I expected this subject would be renewed one day or other, and was resolved to let it rest till it came spontaneously from him. I therefore at once closed my book, and turning round, said, “here
“ is the paper, safe enough, but we will do
“ nothing rashly. I will first light my

“ pipe, then you and I will take a walk
“ and talk over this business deliberately.”
No sooner said than done. We set off
and seated ourselves among the orange
trees, and I began thus:

“ I am well assured, my friend Somer,
“ from this paper, that there is a large
“ sum of money hidden in or near the
“ place where we found it, and I think I
“ have made myself sufficiently master of
“ the contents of this paper, to know the
“ whole secret. Observe,” said I, shewing
him the paper, “ here are two words; these
“ I consider as a kind of watch-words,
“ known only to the parties concerned.
“ In the next place, here is a man’s head;
“ above and below are his arms and feet.
“ This, I think, means to indicate that
“ the person whom they killed is buried
“ there, that his spirit may guard the
“ treasure deposited near him. The gun
“ and the sword were perhaps the device
“ they carried in their colours, likewise

“ these cross bones ; but now take notice,
“ here is the principal key to the disco-
“ very. You see S. W. 19 f. ; that is 19
“ feet south-west, and thence 15 feet to
“ the very spot, or else the same distance
“ as this dart directs ; and within such a
“ circle lies the cash or treasure, if any
“ there be, as I believe. You have now my
“ full opinion of this matter.”

“ Well,” said Somer, “ suppose we
make a trial to recover this treasure?”
“ With all my heart,” I replied, “ if you
think you have courage to undertake it.”
“ Oh ! never fear, der devil vill no hurt
me, mit you m^aster Penoly.” I told him
I thought it would be better to postpone
it a little, till he had recovered more
strength. “ Youst as you vill for dat,” said
he. So the thing was dropt for the pre-
sent.

Soon after this we had a visit from the
natives. They brought with them an In-
dian quite white, and seemingly purblind.

I found our people were well acquainted with him ; but as such a sight was quite new to Somer and me, I desired Harry to give some account of it. He said all he knew of it was, that sometimes, but very seldom, such objects were born among them, but as to the cause he could say nothing, but that they were called moon-lights, and supposed to be conceived when the moon was at the full. They were not much respected, and no one could marry with them. They lived and died just as they were, being of no service except on moonshine nights, and then they were as brisk as other Indians, having very strong sight at that time, and would go a fishing with their darts, when other people could not see at all. I observed his eyes appeared to be inverted as to ours, like an inverted crescent, and he kept them much closed in the day time.

This Indian's name was Erre-awa, or white shiner. The Indians, who came to

see us, and had brought him at his request, were Muzo-agay, Dama-sunto, and Vattequeba. They remained with us about five days, and in that time made a perfect cure of Somer, by means of roots boiled in water, with which he was bathed, and I desired my wife to learn the true use of those roots before they left us.

Soon after they were gone, finding Somer strong on his feet, we made a voyage of discovery to the westward. We took our departure from the point of Long Key, and stood down along the coast about three leagues, when we came to a bluff head land. Near to this, in a small sandy bay, we went on shore. Here we found were multitudes of mullets, and porpoises in pursuit of them. They were so thick that we knocked several on the head with our oars. These mullets have often in their company a fish of a much larger size, called a calipever, differing little in form from the true mullet.

After a short stay, we put off again, and stood down along shore, with the wind easterly, until we saw a long sandy bay, at the farther end of which ran off a rock, with a small hummock directly off that. This we rounded, and then ran into a little cave, where the water was about three feet deep, and here we landed. Somer shot a pohie, or large kind of white crane. These birds are so exceeding white and tall, that I have many times mistaken them for a sail, especially when they have been standing out far from the shore, on a flat, with the sun shining strong upon them. At such a time they have appeared very large, when nothing but the line of the horizon could be seen behind them; and thus situated, I verily believe, I have seen them at the distance of three leagues, and have not been undeceived, till by flight, or some sudden remove, I have been convinced what they really were.

In this place we spent that evening, but on the morrow the wind was fresh south, so that we determined to go no further, and put back right before it, till we got the length of our Long Key. When we had got round the reef, the wind fell, and it soon became a dead calm. We then turned to and rowed, getting into our lagoon in the evening, not a little fatigued, without much profit or discovery by this cruize.

After we had been home about three days, it came into our heads to examine the pirates repository. We got our shovels, and marched to the spot. Our Indians could form no idea of our intentions. In the first place we cleared away all the low brush; then I cut a stick about as near a foot in length as I could, and began to measure the ground agreeably to the directions of the paper. Having done this, I told Harry to dig. He worked for some time, with such poor wooden tools as we

had, but to no purpose, every now and then meeting with hard roots, which we cut through with our maschuts. However we worked down with some difficulty about three feet, and then desisted for that time. Somer began to laugh at me for my credulity, and said, "all de monies is dere I vil put in my eye, unt den ich sal see too." "Well," said I, "have a little patience; we will now begin to dig just so far on the other side, and if that fails, we will have another trial in a line from the feet of the skeleton." I now went to work myself. Harry took likewise a spell, and Somer joined him. When we had got down about eighteen inches, Harry discovered some hard surface. We soon cleared away the dirt, and found a smooth substance like lead. I now began to turn the laugh upon Somer, telling him the prize was found. We then set to work in good earnest. I soon discovered a circle on the plate or cover. We soon got it up, and

found it to be a very large bowl, with a cover, which on scraping with my knife, I found to be good silver. Harry soon found two more of still larger dimensions, lying on their side. These we dug out, and found them to contain seventeen dishes of various sizes, all silver; four large, and twenty-six small oblong plates, six basins, which would hold three quarts each, and about fifty smaller things for table use; beneath these we found cups and cans, and then came to a vast quantity of cob dollars. While we were viewing this treasure, Harry observed something of another shape, but we could not move it, and it was with some difficulty we cleared away the earth, and found seven large candlesticks, silver gilt, about four feet long, and very massive. They were doubled to make more easy stowage. We then discovered ten more of smaller size; and after we had taken out about half the dollars, we came to a very large vessel, with four rings to it.

This was nearly full of gold coin. The vessel stood upon the ground, therefore we supposed we were come to the bottom of the treasure, and desisted, all of us extremely fatigued with our morning's work. "Now messmate," said I, "What think you of the riches we have discovered? You are by much a wealthier man than when you rose this morning; but whether upon the whole you are a happier one, remains to be proved. I wish, however, the money was all safely lodged in the bank, for all that."

Some of the plate had rich raised work on it, with coats of arms, shewing lion's heads, chevrons, shells, and stars, and on the feet of some of the candlesticks was the name Isabel Rubialis, 1605. Possessed of this great booty, we were sadly at a loss where to deposit it, or what use to make of it. It is true, I could have trusted Owa-gamy and Komaloot with the secret; but it was almost impossible for them to

assist us in the disposal of it, without being discovered by the Spaniards, who would soon have claimed the whole, knowing it to have been the property of their nation. Sometimes we thought of melting the vessels down, but came to no determination. At length it became quite a dead letter with us, being of no real use, therefore it lay by neglected, just covered over with earth, and no more regarded than mere dross. Indeed we kept a few pieces of the gold coin, as ornaments for the women and children; and I ordered Harry to plant some lime and guava seeds before the place, which in a few months entirely covered it. At the same time we gave our Indians strict charge, never to drop the least hint of what they had seen before our visitors, lest we might be all involved in difficulties, which it was much easier, by silence, to prevent, than to counteract the effect of, if once known.

We had now another visit from the Indians, Owa-gamy and three more. Owa-gamy informed us that Komaloot was dead. This gave us the most unfeigned sorrow. I told them, though we had lost so good a friend, I hoped it would by no means lessen their friendship for us, and that they would visit and esteem us as usual. Owa-gamy gave us every assurance of the continuance of his friendship and regard. He then took occasion to inquire where we got the gold, which he saw on the women and children. He was told it was found on the sands by the sea shore. His answer was, that he supposed it to be some of the money my countrymen had hidden, when they came along the coast to plunder the Spaniards, in his old father's time. I asked him what he meant by this? He said, when he was a little child, there died among them a very old white man, who had been one of those people. He remembered his name

was Yaspe. Moreover that his father, when talking with him, had heard him tell that he had been at the plundering of churches, and getting great riches; that on a time, he with a number of others had buried a very rich treasure on the coast, to the northward of their dwelling, where they belayed a young mulatto fellow to keep watch over it. That his father, and some other Indians, among whom was old Coduuno, who died in the canoe with me, proposed to go with him in search of it; but that old Yaspe told them, in case he was to find out the very spot, he nor they would be any thing the better for it, as it would, on their digging, continually keep sinking lower in the earth. On their inquiring how this could be, he said, the spirit who kept guard over it would sink it, knowing that we had no title to any part of it; because, on a quarrel with him, his companions had landed or marooned him with a curse, so that he was rendered

incapable of being a partaker of this booty. So weak and superstitious were these wretches.

From the particulars already related, I had no doubt but this man was one of the gang of pirates who had buried the treasure we had found; and I was the more curious to learn his name, but could get nothing from them but Yaspe. On examining the round robin, I concluded it must be Jasper Cary. Our friends staid with us but three days, and then departed for their own home. We desired they would bear our sorrow away with them to our friends at home, on the death of our good friend Komaloot.

About this time Somer's wife brought him a daughter, which he called Hannah; and three days after, my wife presented me with a son, to whom I gave the name of Rees. We were now eleven in family, a little society, secluded from the world and its concerns, yet perfectly happy, if

we could but be content, as we wanted for nothing, but what we could do well without.

I must now mention an instance of diversion, which often occurred, and which created great mirth. The Indians on their last visit brought with them a monkey, as a present to Owen. This little creature being very young, and just taken from its dam, grew extremely fond of us, and more particularly so with our dog Swift, so that whenever the dog lay down, the monkey would get on its back, and place itself between its shoulders. The dog was equally courteous, and became very fond of his playmate. This attachment commenced by the child first encouraging it to play with the dog; and from this time it was ever on his back, go where he would, the dog never refusing to bear his rider with great cordiality. Harry would sometimes call the dog by his name, and then set off as hard as he could run; the dog would

soon follow with the little jockey sitting on his back. By constant practice, the monkey became a very skilful and bold rider; and Somer, as a reward for his skill and perseverance, made him a little cap and whip. Harry, to create more diversion, would sometimes get into the woods, then call eagerly for Swift; the dog and his rider would set off full speed. The monkey was become so good a rider or jockey, that he never lost his seat. It was curious to observe the address he shewed. When the dog would push through the thickets, he would dodge his head first to one side then the other, with such ease, that I would defy the best huntsman to dash through a brake with more courage or skill.

If ever we attempted to send the dog into the water, the monkey would be off his back in an instant. He would immediately run home with his cap and whip, and away to my wife—get upon her shoul-

der, and begin to chatter away, as if he was relating to her all that had happened. On these occasions, he would grow shy of the dog for a day or two, and would not mount his back but with extreme caution, till his confidence was restored by better treatment. Another year had now revolved since I first landed on this shore.

CHAP. XVIII.

TWELFTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

ONE day as Somer was going through the trees, he told me he had been sadly troubled by a small bird. As these birds are remarkable, I shall give some description of them. It is about the size of our starling, and called by some the hanger; there are several sorts of them, but all with beautiful plumage; they make their nests to hang down from the outer branch of a tree by a string, or strong fibre, the nest is oblong, like to a cabbage net; many times as I have passed near one of them, the bird has at once darted down from a limb, full in my face, fled back, and then returned

again in the most furious manner, as if it would pick out my eyes, so that I have been obliged to beat it off. These birds are fond of a particular kind of insect, which is altogether as singular as themselves; they are found on cedar, cypress, and such kind of trees; they make themselves a kind of house, something in shape resembling a ship's buoy, and of a substance so rough, that it is impossible to break it with the fingers; they fortify this with particles from the same tree in a very curious way. At the upper end of the nest, the insect appears with about half its body out, and is constantly employed in spinning its threads, lowering itself down, and then hauling itself up, hand over hand, as the sailors term it, with great dexterity. I have seen above a thousand of them hanging on one tree, like so many bobbins. It is curious to observe how cunningly the hanging bird catches them as he flies; when he has taken one, he puts it under his foot on a

limb of the tree, and then easily disengages, and devours it at his leisure.

We often found land tortoises; these Harry told me were choice eating, and indeed we used to make excellent soup of them. It is astonishing how long these animals will retain life and motion after the head has been cut off; I have myself known them to move several days after that operation, if kept in a shady place.

One day this year, being out about half a mile, at the back of our dwelling, I proposed to extend our excursion into the country, to see what we could discover. We put it off to the next day, and then armed ourselves properly for the occasion. For some time our passage was exceeding hard and difficult; at length we gained ground, and came to an opening that was somewhat clear, though here and there were large clumps of fine lofty trees, and beyond them a bare country; we soon discovered three deer, and our dogs at once

put after them, but they were soon out of reach. We now came to a place where there was a kind of morass, on the other side of which was a long range of broken banks, where multitudes of wild parrots flew over our heads. This scene was quite new to us, which made us more particular in our observations. At the foot of the bank Somer found a monstrous skull of some beast; it was so heavy that he could scarcely lift it, the jaw teeth were many of them yet in the head, quite sound, but could be drawn out easily; some of them I am certain weighed as much as two pounds. Going a little further on, I pulled out of the bank a rib of a great size, and near it we found more bones, I presume belonging to the same animal, but of what species I was ignorant; Somer insisted it must be an elephant, as he had seen several, but I never had, and therefore could not determine. We brought away three of the teeth. We found several

bits of wood or stick that had fallen into the water, were petrified. We now mounted the bank, which commanded a most extensive view all round us, and having so far satisfied our curiosity, we returned. When we got home, a council was held over the teeth, but none could give an account of any such animal. Harry, indeed, said, that he had heard the old folks say they had found such large bones when hunting, but they never could say to what animal they belonged. And thus the matter rested.

Shortly after this, Somer proposed that we should have a day of general amusement for the whole family in the boats, it being now exceedingly fine weather. Accordingly, the next morning, every thing being ready, we embarked in our two boats; Somer, his wife and child, myself and my wife and children, in the yawl; Harry, his wife, Jessy, and child, with the dogs, in the great canoe. We had a very pleasant voyage to the old plantation; from thence

we put off for the end of Long Key, where we landed the women and children. I remained with them, while Somer, Harry, and Owen, rambled along the south shore. In about an hour Harry came back, and said they had found a very large boat, like that which Somer's companions had gone away in to the south; but it was full of sand, and he desired I would come and see it. I accompanied him, and found it to be an English long boat, with a bilge in her bow, on the starboard side, painted black and yellow, and appeared, though much weather-beaten, not to be an old boat. As we found, so we left her for the present. I returned to the women, and they went after the birds. I now began to divert myself with my line; and, throwing out, caught a couple of large mutton fish; these, with a few red shanks and sea pies, which they brought back with them, gave us a plentiful meal, which we partook of under an awning which Somer and Harry raised

for us with our sails. This being a kind of feast, we indulged ourselves with a little toddy and our pipes. In the evening we returned home, and escorted our ladies to the castle, in high spirits.

Some time after this, Somer and I determined to go and clear out the boat we had discovered. This cost us some trouble; but we patched her up so as to make her swim home very well. The next thing was to get her up. This we accomplished by the help of rollers; and all hands being mustered to assist, we placed her so that Somer could easily work upon her; for he was at once our carpenter, sailmaker, caulker, and cooper. Having accomplished our object, we did not regret the labour it had cost us, which was not a little, as we worked by spells, moving her inch by inch.

As I observed Somer uncommonly diligent in repairing the long boat, I asked him one day, where was the necessity for all this great labour and pains he was taking,

as, when she was refitted, we should have but little or no use for her, as we had two sail boats and a canoe already? He said it amused him; so I held my peace for the time. But when it was finished, I told him that he and Harry had only made a new job for themselves. "How was that?" he said. "Why, you must now fall to and build a shed over, or launch at once, as the sun will otherwise soon demolish her." In order, therefore, to preserve her from the sun and worm, they built a shed over her, and she remained in perfect security.

The next business we entered upon was melting down our silver plate, thinking by that method we might some time or other get it off. We began by digging a large hole, and Harry was some time employed in cutting billet wood. When all was ready, we made up a kind of cross pile, and laid the different things thereon. When the whole was completed, it formed a huge py-

ramid; and though the fire was well kept up, yet it was above five or six hours before the whole was melted down. We then left it to extinguish itself. In a day or two we cleared away all the ashes, and found a noble mass of plate, which had run into many odd shapes. These we were obliged to reduce into smaller pieces, and it cost Harry work enough; but as employment was at all times happiness, he set cheerfully to work; and what by bending the thinner parts, and applying the axe to what required more strength, he at length reduced the whole. We then buried the pieces in a private place, against the time (if ever) they might be of use to us.

I now proposed another excursion to Harry and Somer along the shore southwest of the Long Key. Accordingly, they took the large canoe and left us the next morning. When they were gone, I took the gun and went among the traps, not daring to go far in their absence. In one

of the traps I found an odd kind of beast of a brown colour. It had been there so long that it was in a state of decay; so I left it till the boat should return. This day I shot a very beautiful parrot, which was white as snow, except a fine crest of yellowish feathers on the head. When I shewed this bird to my wife, she said it was an auchco, and observed that they never talk much.

My two friends did not return that night, and I began to grow very uneasy at their absence, fearing they had met with some disaster. The wind still continued blowing off shore, and I could not sleep all the night. My suspense continued till the next afternoon, when, to my great joy, I saw them coming round the east end of the Long Key. They brought home with them a very large kind of shark, such as I had not seen before. This fish had no teeth, and its skin was exceeding rough. They had also in the boat a large lump of ambergrise, dif-

fering in colour from that which we had found before. I inquired what had kept them out all night? He told me they had ranged the shore for more than five miles, where they found a cask, which they believed to be either beef or pork, and had left it safe on the beach, until I should think proper to go and examine it. Soon after they saw a vessel standing to the southward, upon which they unshipped their mast, and retired among the trees, but that, in about an hour, she tacked and stood out to sea. It now grew so late, that they determined to remain there for that night, though they were plagued to death by the mosquitoes. There was a pretty small creek running up about forty yards, at the head of which was a charming run of fresh water, and there they passed the night.

I could not conceive how that vessel had escaped me, except she was too far to the southward for my eye. I now took Harry

to the trap, and shewed him the animal I had found. He examined and gave me this odd account of it. He said animals of this kind live chiefly by catching ants; they creep slowly on towards a nest, lying flat on their bellies, then put forth their tongues to a great length, which never fails to attract multitudes of these insects upon it. When the beast finds, by their strong biting, that he has got a sufficient freight, he then whips in his tongue, swallows them, and begins the same process again. Harry pulled out the tongue of the dead animal, which was exceedingly long, narrow, and round.

One day as Somer and I were walking on the shore, near some low flat rocks, we saw a very curious scene between two sea crabs. The singularity of it struck me, and will, I hope, be a sufficient apology for inserting it in my Journal. I had just seated myself on a large stone of very considerable length, when I saw a crab come

up the side of it, march slowly towards the middle, and there squatted down. In about a minute after, up came another on the opposite side; the moment the first crab saw the second, it erected itself on its legs as tall as possible; the last comer then advanced very slowly for about three feet towards the other, and made a full stop, both attentively looking at each other. The second crab then began to move in an oblique direction, but quite slow, to a very wide angle from the right to the left, so as to form a kind of curve, or semicircular motion, to the crab in the centre. This he repeated for a considerable time, making his regular advances by contracting his curve, always increasing his velocity as he approached; so that by the time he had made about two-thirds of his progressive motion, his velocity became so exceedingly quick, that the eye could scarcely catch the motion. The centre crab kept moving, at the same time, as if on a swivel or pi-

vot, until the male crab came very nigh ; she then threw off all further restraint, and submitted herself willingly to his embraces.

This naturally leads me to make some remarks on the other sort, called land crabs. They are of an amphibious nature, but their chief residence is on land. There are two sorts or colours of them ; the one of a chocolate colour, the other that of a mulatto. The dark sort is reckoned the best, and is to be found even some miles in the country. They have their regular time of coming down to the sea, which is in the breeding time, about March. What is very extraordinary, when they are on the march, they never turn either to one hand or the other ; but whatever impediment is in their passage, they mount over it, even if it should be as high as one storey of a house. At this season, they come down from the country by thousands ; the males

are then so vicious that they have frequent battles, fight furiously, and give each other such blows with their great claws, that the sound may be heard at least twenty yards; their claws being much larger than the sea crab. When one of them perceives he has the advantage of his adversary, he endeavours to seize him by one of his large claws, and then holds him for such a length of time, that his antagonist, finding no other means of escaping, gives such a sudden jerk with the joint next his body, as to leave the whole member to be devoured by his enemy, and thus makes his escape.

This sort of crab devours indifferently every thing it can come at. They burrow deep in the earth, having generally two holes; the one, perhaps, to make their escape by, or for some other reason. They are so very swift, that if they have a fair field for the chase, it is impossible to overtake them. They differ in bodily shape

from the sea crabs, being of a round and compact form. The lizards take particular care to avoid them; knowing that if they come within reach of their claws, it is inevitable destruction.

I now began to observe, that Somer would often fall into a melancholy desponding mood. He accused himself as the instrument of Brandt's death, and considered himself as stained with the sin of bloodguiltiness. Wretch as he was, he lamented that he had dispatched him in the midst of his wickedness, with all his sins unrepented of. I did every thing I could to convince him, that what he had done was justifiable in the eyes of God and man. He had seen him commit a most cruel and unprovoked murder, and did not know to what lengths his fury might lead him; from the disposition of Brandt, little contrition, but much mischief, was to be expected; in our little community, it became

absolutely necessary to exercise the functions of the executive as well as legislative authority ; in fact, he had killed him when he was in the very act of destroying a poor, inoffensive, unarmed Indian ; and perhaps, by thus taking him off, was an instrument, in the hands of Providence, not only to punish his guilt, but to preserve the lives of others of the family, who might have fallen victims to his violence. He seemed much relieved in his mind by the conversation we had together upon the subject ; and in order to divert his thoughts from it, I proposed that we should go the next day to examine the cask they had found. To this he agreed, and we set off accordingly in the yawl. When we came to the spot we scuttled it, in order to see its contents. We found it filled with hams, took it on board, and returned home. On trial, we found they had lost all their saltiness ; we hung them in the sun to dry ; and dry they

did sure enough, for they became as hard as sticks. The Indians would never taste it; Somer and I now and then cut a piece by way of novelty, but it was very insipid.

I shall now give the reader a sample of my courage when put to the test. My wife and Harry took it into their heads, one evening, to divert themselves a little at my expence. She knew it to be my custom sometimes to cut a slice of those hams in an evening, to eat with a plantain. As I was sitting, as usual, on a stool without, smoking my pipe, my wife asked me why I did not take a bit of the ham for my supper? I immediately got up, and opening my knife for the purpose, went in to cut a slice. These hams were hung a great way back in the cavern. As I advanced towards the place, whistling as I walked along, I was all at once struck with one of the most horrid sights I had ever beheld. I ran back much faster than I had entered, with my hair quite standing on end. My

wife observing me so much alarmed, burst into a fit of laughter. This brought me a little to myself; and she then told me the secret, and rallied me not a little. saying, she wondered white men could be frightened at such trifles, who were not afraid of the winds and great waters. Having now recovered my spirits, I went in again with her to view this tremendous object, for such it really was. Harry having got four fire-flies, such as I before mentioned, almost as large as chaffers, had contrived to fix two of them between his teeth, and the other two over his eyes, and, thus lighted up, had placed himself in a dark corner. The light thrown upon his face was of a greenish hue, and made him look altogether so cadaverous, that I think the stoutest heart would have been daunted at the sight.

Somer happened to be out when this trick was played off upon me. When my wife saw him returning, she told Harry to

place himself as before. As he came up I joined in the frolic, and asked if we should get a bit of ham each for our supper; he agreed to the proposal, and I begged he would cut a piece for both. He said he would freely, and went into the cave for the purpose. In a very short time we heard him holla, but he did not run back, as we expected. This rather alarmed us; but presently Harry came running out in a very great fright, calling for assistance. We ran in, and found Somer lying in a fit. I ordered a torch, and it was near an hour before he recovered his senses, notwithstanding all our endeavours. I then gave him a little gin; and, when he was able to converse, asked him what ailed him?

“Oh! donder, donder!” he said; “ich sall never liven much long.”

“What has terrified you, shipmate?” said I, “you stare like one mad.”

“Mine vriend,” he replied, “I bin see von spook for Brandt.”

I told him it was all fancy ; that he had fallen into a fit, and I supposed he was subject to them. He said, No ; never before, that he knew of. I would now have given a thousand dollars this trick had not been tried ; however, as the best expedient, I recommended him to lie down immediately, and endeavour to sleep. To this he consented ; and I gave his wife a charge to watch by him, and that not a word should be said to him of what had passed, before the next morning. He slept well, and seemed much recovered. I then discovered to him the whole business, and told him I had been served in the same manner. This made him easier ; but he was not thoroughly convinced till the same was repeated the next evening, and then all passed off very well.

I have been always averse to frolics of this kind, as very idle and very dangerous. Few young people reflect on the consequences that may possibly follow them.

Society may be deprived of a very useful member by a sudden fright. Instances of this kind have happened. The nervous system may be thrown into such disorder, as never perfectly to recover from the shock. The gratification which we derive, from thus sporting with the feelings of our friends or fellow-creatures, is of a malevolent kind; and it would at all times be much better to lose our joke, than endanger our friend's corporeal or mental happiness.

CHAP. XIX.

It was now about the middle of July, when, as Somer and I were on a hill looking out to seaward, I thought I discovered some kind of vessel in the offing. I therefore called for my glass, which Eva brought up to me. I was right in my conjecture; but we were at a loss what to make of her, as she was under no sort of sail, and was too far out to be at anchor. It was about noon when we first saw her, and there she remained all that day. The next morning I went up again, and found she had not drifted half a mile from her first station. Somer was for going to reconnoitre her;

I thought it too hazardous, and objected. This seemed to make him uneasy ; I therefore told him, if she continued in that way two hours longer, I would consent to go in our yawl, to get a more satisfactory view of her. With this he was not perfectly satisfied ; he was convinced, he said, she was in distress ; and why should we hesitate a moment, when we were called upon by so sacred a duty as that of preserving life, to give the most effectual and speedy relief ? I replied, that his motive did him honour, and I would immediately comply with his request. I at once ordered Harry to get the yawl ready, that we might set forward on our expedition.

I found that my wife was extremely anxious that I should not go ; I therefore told Somer that Harry should accompany him, giving him a strict charge not to go too near, unless they saw an absolute necessity of so doing. We saw them go off with a light wind ; and, during their ab-

sence, my mind was in a continual agitation. Every now and then I took a fresh look out, and saw, to my satisfaction, that Somer was determined to keep his wind of her. Soon after I saw them lie to ; and in a little time perceived a small thing put from alongside the vessel, and join our yawl. My anxiety increased every moment. I now saw both boats go alongside the vessel : and the reader may judge what my feelings were whilst they continued on board. In a short time they again put off, and stood right in for our bay. My impatience was extreme. To my great satisfaction, I discovered our people in the yawl, and as they came in, I ran down eagerly to inquire what news.

Somer eagerly called out for water, which was soon given to him. He then told us it was a sloop from St Jago de Cuba, in great distress ; she had been struck by lightning, which had carried away the mast about six feet above the partners. Two

hands were struck dead, and they had not one drop of water left when they came on board, having finished the last the day before; and the little brought in the yawl was a great relief to them. I asked, how he came to understand them? He told me, the captain, he believed, was an Irishman, and could speak English very well; his name was Dennis Organ, and he begged them to give him all the assistance in their power. "How many hands are there?" said I. He said, "three men and a boy." I then bid them fill our empty kegs with water, and take it off to them, as it was impossible for us to give them any farther assistance till the sloop was brought in and at anchor. Somer said, he had given them directions to go for water to the point of Long Key; which I told him was right.

We now took in some of our provisions, and put off directly. As we got out of the lagoon, we saw their boat rowing for the Key point, and hurried off to them as

fast as we could. When we got alongside, the captain stood crossing himself and blessing us, at the same time making bows to me. I jumped on board directly, when he met and eagerly kissed me, saying, that we were angels sent from the holy powers to save their lives. I asked the captain how long they had been in this distress? He said, they had been out twenty-nine days, and eighteen in distress. They had not one spar left; they first got up the squaresail yard to the boom as a mast, or rather jury-mast, and lost that three days after, being carried away in a gale of wind; and now she was become a mere log, having nothing more they could make use of; and, if there had been any thing, they were so exhausted it would have availed them but little. I told him, the first thing to be done was to get her in-shore to an anchor, and then we would endeavour to cut down a tree that should answer his purpose. He then asked us down below,

and offered us some aquadrinta. I told him we were not used to any strong liquors, therefore begged him to excuse us. "O ho !" said he, "my dear children, you are the first sailors I ever saw who did not like a drop of the silly crature." I replied, I could tell him more on that head another time.

As we were conversing, I saw a book on the locker, which curiosity tempted me to take up ; to my great surprise, I found it to be Spenser's Fairy Queen in English. This was the first book I had seen for many a long year ; of which I informed the captain. "And is it, in troth ?" said he ; "why then, honey, I could gratify your desire by the fistful ; but first let us be getting the sloop to an anchor, by your laves." This I told him should be done the moment his boat returned ; which was soon after ; and we towed her into twelve fathom water, and there came to. The evening coming on, I took my leave of

them, as I did not chuse to remain on board all night, lest something might happen at home. I asked the captain to come on shore with us, but he declined it, not chusing to leave the sloop.

I slept but little that night, and, about three in the morning, roused Harry, and bid him call Somer. We then put off down the lagoon, and were obliged to row to the sloop, as it was a dead calm. They were all turned out, waiting our arrival.

“ Good morning to you, my dear creatures,” said the captain, and long life to you !” We then jumped on board, and went below. I observed there were on board one Spaniard and two negroes.

The captain took up a bottle, and, holding it up to the light, said, “ Well, now, what may your name be called, I pray ?”

I told him, Penrose, at his service.

“ Penrose !” said he ; “ Were you ever on board the old Namur, young man ?”

I answered in the negative.

“ Well, faith and troth then, honey, I was well acquainted with one Davy Penrose on board that ship, in the year 1738.”

“ You must know,” said I, “ that is somewhat too old a date for me.”

“ Faith, and that is true, I believe,” replied he: “ But, however, it’s the same thing, you know; he might be your elder brother.”

“ Not brother,” I said, “ but perhaps some relation.”

“ Oh ! then, by my soul, you don’t gain much credit by your kinsman, joy; for he would be after milling and pilfering any one’s duds he could lay his hands on; so that some of our knowing lads would be after remarking, that he was a fisherman’s boy, and each of his fingers a fish-hook. But that is neither here nor there; take a little bob of this, honey,”—holding out the bottle and glass to me.

To humour him, we took a small quantity, and then turned to and got up the

anchor; leaving the skipper at the helm, we got three into each boat, and began to tow her farther in. While we were thus employed, the old man asked me if I knew a good birth to bring her to in? "I have not been here so many years without knowing that," I told him. After we had been towing about an hour, he called the boy Perico on board, and ordered him to cook us a good mess of chocolate. The sound of chocolate revived my heart; and we were soon served with about a pint each, and a good Spanish biscuit. We then brought her to an anchor opposite our old plantation, where she lay snug enough, in about two fathom water.

When we had so far brought matters to bear, I invited the captain and his company to our poor habitation. He said, "With all his heart;" so, leaving the boy to look after the vessel, we came away together; his two people and Harry rowed us. We there sat conversing together.

I briefly ran over my story ; the old man would every now and then cry out, *Salve, Domine!* At length we came to our habitation. I then took Captain Organ by the hand, and bid him welcome. The rest of our family had gathered round to meet us ; but no sooner did they fix their eyes on the negro man, whose name was Roderigo, than the children ran away, terrified at the sight of him ; the women also began to move off, as I believe none of them had ever before seen an African negro.

I told this kind old Hibernian, that, without any ceremony, he was free to make use of our place as he thought proper ; that Somer and I would give him every assistance in our power, and that we had plenty of those things which were absolutely necessary to support nature, but that for dainties, we had long learned to dispense with them ; when we were a little refreshed we would take a walk into the wood, and mark a proper tree for a mast,

which Somer very generously undertook to make. I took an opportunity to ask him what quantity of powder he had on board. "Arrah, honey," said he, "it is not long since I thought I had too much of it on board, when we were singed by the lightning." I told him we had a fine lump of ambergrise by us, and if he approved of it, we would exchange it with him for powder. "Och!" said he, "you shall have what I can spare, joy, for nothing at all, at all, one good turn deserves another you know, you relieved us in our distress, and we are bound to return your kindness with gratitude." I then presented the women and children to him, and as the negro seemed fond of the little ones, they soon grew familiar with him.

After we had dined, Somer, and Diego the Spaniard, took a walk in search of some sticks to cut for a pair of sheers, while the captain and I hunted for a tree fit for a temporary mast. Having com-

pleted this business, we returned, and chatted over our pipes, a practice he had not been accustomed to these last five years, having used nothing but segars. He promised to present us with some tobacco, with a little sugar and chocolate. I mentioned twine, needles, nails, &c., or any thing else he could well spare, most of which we afterwards obtained in some degree. The next day the trees were felled, Somer and Diego went to work on them, and in about five days they formed a tolerable mast.

The captain told me, it was very surprising they had never once had sight of any vessel during the whole time of their distress, being frequently becalmed for days together, and that two casks of water were stove during the thunder storm in the hold, and five long bars of iron fairly melted. When they were first struck, he imagined all the people were killed, as they were all struck down. Pedro, Gomer, and Mar-

tin Galvan, never revived, and were committed to the deep the next day. I inquired to what place they were bound? He said to a port called Madalina, and that he was himself half owner of the sloop, which was about sixty tons burthen, quite old, and much out of repair.

The next day the captain and I, with Harry and the negro, went away to the sloop, taking some yams and beans for the boy's use. While we were on board, I asked him to give me a sight of some of his books. He called Perico to bring him a square box; when it came, I was very much struck by seeing the following direction on it, done with black paint.

“To the care of Mr Aaron Manby, Kingston, Jamaica.”

“This has been prize goods, I suppose,” said I.

“Faith and troth and it was all that,” replied the captain, “they have lain a long time at St. Jago, in an old store, unheeded,

as few or none could read them, so I got them for a trifle, honey."

I asked if he would part with them, and what he would take for the whole lump?

"Why, as to that, my dear," said he, "I don't care much to part with them at all, do you see, because I know some of my acquaintance where I am bound will give me a good price for some of them, as we never have any English books come among us, but by the wheel of fortune, as I may say."

"Well, then," said I, "will you take the value of fifty pieces of eight, as you say you gave but a trifle for them?"

"Indeed, Mr Penrose, I can deny you nothing at all at all; and so, do you see, if you will give me seventy dollars, they are yours, and a cheap bargain too."

Now, thought I, you are an old fox.

"Well, then, captain," said I, "I will give you in good solid silver the full value of seventy dollars; is it a bargain or not?"

“Shew me the money, my dear,” he replied.

“As to money, where should I get cash? but the full weight in silver will answer your purpose as well.”

“Are you upon honour, my jewel?”

“I am,” I told him.

“Then you shall have them, honey; so say no more, but take them with you when you go.” And to mend the bargain he gave me a bottle of cordial.

I then called Harry, and, with the negro boy, got the box into the yawl. I was now quite eager to be on shore. Just as we were going to put off, and waiting for the old man who was in the cabin, I was surprised to hear the negro talking English with Harry, and laughing. “What makes you so merry, blacky?” said I.

“Massa, I was tell your man that the old fellow well paid for those books.”

“How so?” I replied.

“Because I was with him when he paid

for them, and he gave but five pieces of eight."

"Well, well," said I, "never mind that now; pray, where did you learn to speak English?"

He said he was born in Spanish Town, Jamaica, and was carried off by a privateer from Old Harbour, about thirteen years ago, when quite a boy.

"Are you a free man?"

"Yes," he said, "my wife bought my freedom; she is a Spanish mulatto of Rio Madalina."

When we came on shore, I told the captain I would convince him of my honour. I then produced a quantity of silver in pieces, bid him examine and try it till he was fully satisfied; he began to cut it, and try the weight of it in his hand, and exclaimed, "By the holy St Columb it is good plate, sure enough; and where did you find it?"

“ By chance, digging for turtles eggs,” said I.

“ Well, then, by the blessed St Patrick you are a fortunate man, Mr Penrose, to find turtles that laid silver eggs.”

“ Well, captain, how shall we weigh this plate ?”

“ Leave that to me, honey,” said he.

“ Not entirely,” I replied, “ you will allow me to have some little hand in it.” Then taking up a piece I asked him what he valued that at ? About eight dollars he said. Thus we went on till his avarice was fully satisfied. This done I wrote a receipt, and he put his name to it.

We now paid a visit to the mastmakers, and brought them down to the cave, where I made them a good yabba of toddy from our little store. We sent the canoe out a striking, and in about two hours they returned with a fine mess of fish, which was directly cooked. As we were eating, the

old man asked me if I was a catholic. I answered in the negative.

“ Ah ! that is your misfortune,” said he, “ but no matter, honey, if you are not to be saved, that is no fault of mine you know ; only it is a great pity that your people will be after quitting the true and only old mother church.”

“ Never mind dat,” said Somer, “ don’t you see how the goot Got mack his sun shine ’pon all, you vil neet send us to de divil, when we make you von goot mast.”

The old man seeing himself so much obliged to us, did not persist in sending us to perdition, and the business ended amicably. We took our pipes with some of the captain’s excellent tobacco, and the old man went up the hill with Somer and Diego to see the work.

In the mean time, I took the opportunity to examine my purchase, and found the contents as follows : ‘The Fairy Queen, Pope’s Essay, Spectator, Seneca’s Morals,

Chaucer's Tales, Don Quixote, Ovid's Epistles, Josephus, Anson's Voyage, Ramsay's Songs, Fox's Book of Martyrs, a fine large old Bible with large clasps, Spectacle de la Nature, some of Baxter's Works, Virgil, Homer, and Horace, and many pamphlets unbound. These books had been so much neglected, that the worms had passed through them in many places, but had not entirely spoiled them. However, I thought the old captain well paid for them, though I would not have returned them for double the money; and I was so proud of my purchase, that I stowed away the box with all imaginable care, considering the contents as an inestimable treasure.

The next day we sent off the sheers and a small boom. When the mast was finished, we mustered all hands, and with rollers and handspikes got it down to the lagoon in two days, from whence it was towed alongside. Somer was appointed master-

rigger. The next day they raised the sheers; on the morrow the boy came in and told me that Somer had got the mast in, and the captain desired I would let him and the boy go out and strike fish for them, while they got up the shrouds and other things. I dispatched them accordingly, and likewise gave them some roots, and what else I could spare.

It was above a week after this before Somer had got her any way in readiness; her main-sail was then to be cut less to suit her mast, which was not so stout as the former. In about a fortnight they got her in a tolerable condition to proceed. We then made a kind of feast on shore, and were very merry on the occasion; the old gentleman was quite liberal to us, giving us all he could well spare. They remained with us almost a month, living chiefly on provisions from our plantation, and by fishing and gunning. They left with us about thirty pound weight of powder, about one hun-

dred of bar lead. The captain gave our women some boxes of marmalade. They had a quantity of dry goods on board of several kinds. He gave me about two dozen of Barcelona handkerchiefs, a variety of ribbons for the females, and a small pocket compass, a thing which gave me great joy ; he desired Somer to accept of a plane and a pair of compasses ; to Harry he gave an hour glass ; with which he was so much pleased that he would often lay himself down and watch the whole run out before he would stir, frequently striking the glass to make it run faster, as he believed. We likewise got store of twine, thread, hooks, needles, pins, two penknives, and many other articles we stood in need of. The time now drew nigh that they were to leave us. I settled with the old man and paid him the full value of every thing he spared us, and refused every compensation for our labour ; telling him that the relief we had the power of giving, was the per-

formance of a duty only, and the pleasure we received in bestowing it, a sufficient reward. In fact it was no more than practising the lesson we had been so often taught by the poor Indians.

Matters being thus settled, the old man asked me to take a walk with him; and he addressed me thus: "Mr Penrose, how was it possible for you to live so many years among a parcel of savages in a desert country? No doubt, my dear, you will be glad to embrace the opportunity of going with us; as to the leaving them, you know, they will be in a better situation than when you met with them; therefore go with me, honey, in my sloop, and you will be a happy man indeed; we have some holy men with us, who will put you in the right way, my jewel, and bring you into the holy church, which will be better than spending your time in a wilderness in this world, with little chance of better fare in another, you know."

I told him, that “ as to living with savages, I could have no very great objection, they had treated me kindly, and I had received from them instances of attachment and regard, which would do honour to any state of society. Were there no savages in civilized Europe? I fear many and more ferocious. To the candid and simple manners of these innocent creatures I was strongly attached: we were united by the obligations of friendship and reciprocal regard; they had fostered me with kindness when I was naked and alone; I had taught them some useful things, they had repaid me by their fidelity and by their affectionate endeavours to promote my happiness by every means in their power; I would never desert them; I was perfectly contented with my situation; it was true we did not enjoy the superfluities of the busy world, but we had none of its wants or its cares; we had every thing that was needful for the preservation and support of

life, with good health, sound sleep, and the uninterrupted enjoyment of the greatest blessings that sweeten human existence, love and friendship. In regard to my spiritual state, I was resolved to continue steadfast in that religious faith in which I had been educated, and that I was well assured my friend Somer had made the same resolution. I had not a wish to leave the place; but if hereafter an English ship should touch here, and would transport me and my family to my native land, the temptation might be too great for me to withstand. But, my good friend, before we part I have one favour to beg of you; it is that you will keep my residence on this coast a secret, particularly from the Spaniards. Our continuing here can be in no respect injurious to them, but their knowledge of my situation would at once disturb our quiet enjoyment, and drive us from a habitation where we pass our time in innocence and peaceful tranquillity."

He grasped my hand, and swore by St Patrick that he would keep silent on that subject, and that he would so manage it with his crew that they should be equally cautious to prevent its being discovered. In a few hours after this he proposed to depart; we waited on him to the sloop. Having got up the anchor, I stood pilot till they were clear of the Long Key, and then bid them a good voyage, returning safe back to our old mansion. I trust we performed our duty by them in every respect, and I have little doubt but they made a saving voyage of it, as we gave them both our pieces of ambergrise, which must have been of great value.

This adventure upon the whole made us extremely happy, in the opportunity it gave us of reading and hearing the holy scriptures, which proved a great comfort to us. After they were gone I repented that we had not sold them the long boat; but Sommer said it would have been of no service,

as they could neither hoist her in or out, and to tow her would impede their way too much ; besides, it was not impossible but we might want her ourselves.

Some months after this poor Somer grew very ill, with spitting of blood and other bad symptoms, which I supposed might have been brought on by his intense application to reading and study. I therefore begged him to refrain, at least for a time, and whenever he had an inclination I would read to him ; advising him, at the same time, as we had now powder, to go out often with his gun, or attend Harry on his fishing excursions ; the exercise and air would in all probability complete his recovery. He complied with my advice, and soon became much better.

CHAP. XX.

THIRTEENTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

It was now the latter end of June; time rolled on as usual; nothing of any consequence had occurred, except that my school advanced much in knowledge; my son Owen could read tolerably well, and Harry was very forward; I had in the whole six scholars, all of them very attentive and diligent, and I kept them to regular business every day. One day Somer and I took it into our heads to count over our treasure, for hitherto we had suffered it to remain without notice or regard; we began with the gold, and found it to amount to

five hundred and fifty-seven pistoles; the silver to seven thousand nine hundred and forty-four dollars,—a fine sum this to be divided between two poor shipwrecked sailors.

“ I trust, Somer,” said I, “ we shall make a better use of this treasure, even if we are ever restored to the world, than we should have done had it been obtained by privateering, and we had continued in the courses we then pursued.”

He agreed with me in this, and said, “ Mine vriend, it be best as it is; we were then mad, we are now, I tink, sober and discreet, and every thing that has happened has been for the best, so we sal bless Got and be content.”

We now disposed ourselves to be as satisfied with our situation as possible; we diverted ourselves with various amusements, such as shooting at marks with bows and arrows, playing at quoits, setting the young women and children to run races, &c. &c. In a short time after, as Somer and I were

talking together on a few lines I had been reading in Josephus, the subject naturally led us to consider the necessity of a more punctual and reverend observance of the Sabbath day, particularly as we were now furnished with the holy scriptures, and other books, to assist us in our devotion. He entirely agreed with me on the subject; and it was proposed, that every Sunday after breakfast we should read at my table, the creed, commandments, and Lord's prayer; then take a chapter in the Bible, beginning with the first, the same with the New Testament, and a portion of the Psalms, to end by singing a psalm, if we could accomplish it. Somer said he could sing several Dutch tunes, and we agreed to adapt them to the words as well as we could. This being settled, when the next Lord's day arrived, I desired Harry to collect the whole family. When they were all met, I took my place, and gave them strict charge not to make the least noise during

the service, which was very solemnly observed till we came to the psalm; the parrots then began to hoot and sing at such a rate, as to disturb us greatly; and one of our dogs was equally troublesome; this was remedied in future by putting the culprits in durance during the time of our devotional exercises. The serious and solemn behaviour of our women on these occasions cannot be too much praised, and gave us the greatest satisfaction.

Somer now contrived to make me a kind of desk to read at; and we never omitted these religious duties, unless we were prevented by some unforeseen accident. It happened one Sunday when we were in the middle of the psalm which concluded the service, that three Indians, who had travelled by land, walked up towards the cave. On seeing how we were engaged, they halted and stood in a very serious attitude of attention till we had concluded the ceremony; they then came forward and

saluted us in a most friendly manner. Two of them were strangers to me, the other an old acquaintance, Gaynosanto ; one of the new comers was named Owasotas, and a kind of half brother to my wife, by two fathers, as she expressed it.

These Indians brought us seeds of tobacco from Owagamy, and a piccary they had shot. This we got dressed, and it made a plentiful repast for our friends.

I shall now take notice of something singular in regard to the Bible which I purchased of the old Irish captain. On the first unprinted leaf of this book was the following memorandum :

Samuel Shaddon was born May 4th anno 1670.

Joseph Shaddon, his son, born in Westminster the 12th August anno 1701.

Mary Shaddon was born 9th October anno 1703.

Nicholas Shaddon born on the 23d November anno 1705.

Elenor Shaddon born on the 2d June anno 1708.

On the inside the cover was written the following extraordinary address : “ Thomas, this is the last and best favour you can possibly expect to receive from my aged hands ; remember it is my earnest and solemn request that you will peruse this book with the strictest attention. In the various accidents to which human life is subject, you may want comfort and consolation ; here you are sure to find them. Should friends forsake or the world frown upon you, you will here find an ample recompence. By the precepts contained in this book, you will learn to submit yourself to the chastening hand of your heavenly father ; you will gather from them strength and confidence to oppose the evils and misfortunes which may impede your passage through life, or to support yourself with christian fortitude and resignation under them ; you will learn that the

inflictions of providence are ultimately conducive to your eternal welfare ; for ‘ whom God chasteneth, he loveth.’ Never part with it ; and if by constant use it should be so worn as to make it necessary to have it rebound, preserve the old covers on which this is written, in your family, in remembrance of the real affection of the donor, and the respect you owe to his memory, who wishes you all happiness.

“ JAMES ROGERS, 1719.”

About this time, as my wife and I were walking on the other side of the plantain walk, I desired her to observe a small bird, similar, as I told her, to one we had in my country of about the same size, called a wren. Nothing can exceed the beauty of these little creatures ; they go always in pairs, and though in their shape and magnitude they resemble the above mentioned bird, yet their colours are much more beautiful. They are of a fine green, like the

parrot; and under the throat is a large spot equal to the ruby in colour. They are not very shy, seldom mounting above the low shrubs. She told me her people called them manune, which signified mutual love; a name which very well described their affection for each other, being inseparable; wherever one pitches, the other alights by its side; they bill like pigeons, and give every indication of the strongest attachment to each other.

It is with real sorrow I relate the scene which speedily followed. As we were admiring them, I observed one of these little innocents begin to flutter its wings and chatter much, then run along the spray, and return to its mate. This I at first thought expressive of courtship or fondness; but shortly after, as it flew down to the ground, my wife pointed out to me a long and very slim yellow snake, which was coiled up with its head in the centre erected, and playing its tongue at a great rate. The

poor little bird would run to and fro, fluttering with its wings, and making a sad noise, then fly up to its mate again ; every time it came down it still drew nearer to the snake, which at last threw itself at its length, but still kept its head erect and directed towards the bird. My wife assured me I should soon see the snake open its mouth very wide, and then the bird would run and play close before it, when the snake would give a dart and take it in. However, this I did not believe ; as the snake was so extremely small that I thought it impossible, and told her I was sure there was no fear of that. However, from the increased emotion of the one and the fierceness of the other, I was resolved to make all sure. I therefore seized a small twig with some warmth, and struck the snake athwart the neck, which broke the enchantment, and restored my poor little innocent to its disconsolate mate, who sat all the time on the shrub crying, “ chip, chip,”

trembling, and to all appearance in a great agony. I congratulated myself on the relief I had given to this faithful pair, and began to feel some compunction at having suffered them to remain so long in a state of doubtful and dangerous distress, when it was in my power at any time to have relieved them from it. Indeed it was done partly to satisfy my mind as to the fact of fascination, which I had often heard asserted, but never had an opportunity before of convincing myself by actual experiment.

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